

In Brief

NAIROBI—An air force corporal on Wednesday received the ninth death sentence in connection with an attempt last August 1 to overthrow the government of President Daniel Arap Moi. The insurrection by mainly junior-ranked air force personnel was put down at the cost of at least 169 lives by loyal army troops.

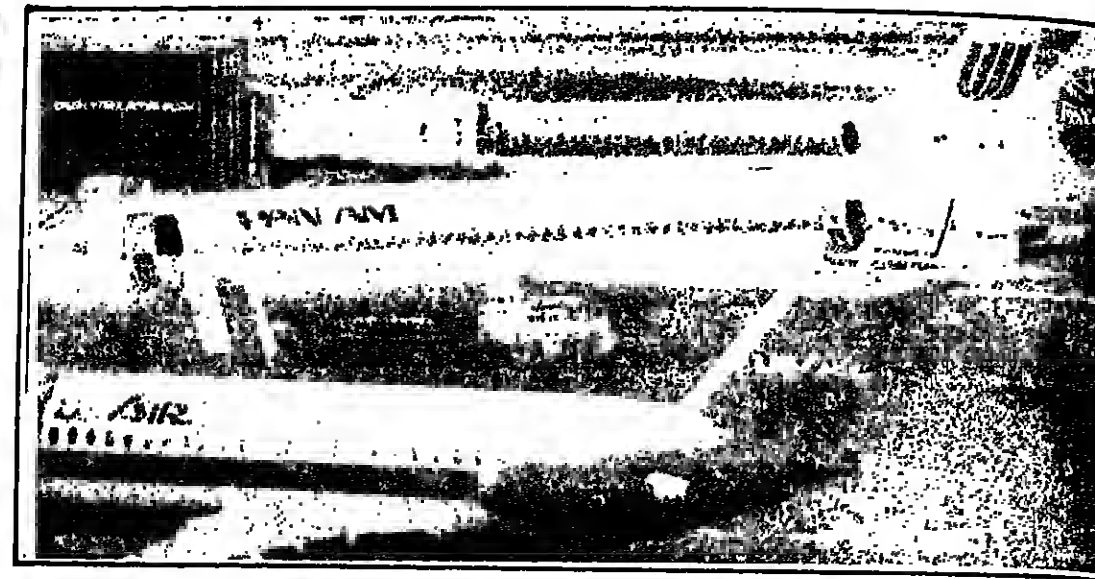
ISLAMABAD—Pakistan will revert to democracy within a year despite the military government's extended rule, according to leading Pakistani opposition party. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a senior leader of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, the multi-party opposition alliance, has said that whether the rulers of Pakistan like it or not the transfer of power is not going to take very long time now. Jatoi was interned Monday by the Punjab government for 90 days on account of his indulgence in political activities which are banned under martial law.

WASHINGTON—The Arab League envoy to the United States Dr. Cloude Mekaoud said here Tuesday that recommendations of the Israeli commission into the Sabra and Shatila massacre is a step in the right direction, but still inadequate and ineffective. "Although Defence Minister Ariel Sharon constituted in his policies and behaviour a completely reckless policy, it is important to realize that the cabinet responsibility is in its entirety and cannot be separated into individuals," he said.

TEL AVIV—Official talks on future co-operation between Zaire and the Jewish state commenced Wednesday with particular emphasis on military co-ordination. The Zaire defence minister arrived in Israel Tuesday at the head of a military delegation on a five-day visit. The delegates will hold talks with Israeli political and military officials. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Yitzhak Navon will also receive the guests, according to the radio.

TEHRAN—The Iranian Interior Minister was quoted by two newspapers 'Tithe' and 'Kelhan', as saying that the secretary general of Tudeh party and other leaders were arrested. All those arrested members of the Iranian Communist Party were apprehended on charges of espionage, forging documents and illegal activities.

CANBERRA—The new leader of the Australian Labour Party stated Tuesday that his country will pull out its contingent in the peace-keeping force from Sinai in case his party wins the elections that will take place on the 8th March.



US airlines: Feeling the crunch

Grim prospects for US airlines

NEW YORK (Kunol)—Despite prospects for a consumer-led economic recovery in 1983, executives of America's major airlines are grim about the near-term future of the industry.

"Unless yields and passenger traffic improve substantially in 1983, we don't expect to turn a pre-tax profit this year," says Trans World Airline (TWA) in a statement.

TWA, a subsidiary of the Trans World Corporation, has just concluded another loss-ridden year, its fourth consecutive yearly deficit. And Pan American World Airways also widened its deficit last year over 1981.

Final figures for 1982 weren't in yet, but the industry probably piled up a record operating loss for the first straight year. In 1981 the nation's 11 major airlines lost \$447 million on operations. What is more, total revenues are expected to drop for the first time in the industry's history.

Lower fuel bills, lower interest rates and a slowing in labour-cost increases aren't enough to generate optimism because of the possibility of sharply increased seat capacity, price wars and the airlines' determination to hold on to market share against aggressive smaller competitors.

The 4.7 per cent traffic growth for the 11 major carriers came almost totally from deeply discounted prices. Travellers are becoming so accustomed to rock-bottom prices for airline tickets, that the practice could become permanent, industry analysts say.

The price wars are rooted in government deregulation of the industry which began in late 1978, with the big

carriers having to bear the brunt of the burden.

In addition, the "biggies," more than others, are suffering from the recession, high costs, excess capacity and air traffic controllers strike.

On the cost side, however, some breaks have come along. Fuel prices were down about 5 per cent last year.

Among the industry's winners so far are a handful of smaller airlines that have grown rapidly since deregulation was allowed by deregulation to set their own routes.

Trans World, the TWA parent, is trying to overcome some of its problems by selling shares of the subsidiary to the public.

Under a previously announced plan, details of which became available Tuesday, the company will offer \$1 million newly issued shares in TWA, along with \$1 million shares it currently holds. The rest of the money will be used to expand Trans World's hotel, food service and real estate operations.

What troubles airline executives most are the discount fares, which in 1982 resulted in an overall drop in industry revenues, the first such decline ever.

The fare war was triggered last year when Pan Am cut \$99 one-way fare for its entire domestic system. Recent three out of four travellers were flying at discount rates compared with two out of four a year ago.

Richard J. Ferris, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of United Airlines, blames the fare wars on "Discount companies."

The Jerusalem Star

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Navon warns of civil war signs

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN—A vote of no-confidence presented by three parties in the Knesset on Wednesday to bring the Begin government down failed to materialise. But signs of political and civil dissent grew inside Israel in the aftermath of the Kahane report on the massacres of Sabra and Shatila last September.

The no-confidence motions, tabled by the Marakh bloc which groups the Labour and other minor parties, Shimi (change) party and the Hashd bloc, came as a result of mounting protest against the government's failure to fully implement the Kahane commission's recommendations.

The parties also criticized the violence carried out by pro-government groups in which one Peace Now movement activist was killed and others injured when members of the movement were demonstrating before the Knesset building last week.

The motions were defeated by 64 votes to 56 in a heated session which began early Wednesday afternoon.

Meanwhile informed political sources in Jerusalem said that contacts are being made between the Likud leaders and Marakh regarding the formation of a national coalition government and that Dr. Yusef Burg is mediating between the two parties.

The same sources added that in case such a

government is formed, the leader of the Labour Party, Shimon Peres will occupy the post of deputy prime minister while Yitzhak Rabin will occupy a post probably in the ministry of defence. A majority of the coalition parties support such a government. The leaders of Mivdal, Tami and the liberals with some leaders of Agudat Israel support a national coalition government while the majority of Herut party and Tehiya, under Goli Cohen together with some of the leaders of Agudat Israel, oppose such a government on grounds that the Marakh party wants to cede some parts of the "Land of Israel," the West Bank and Gaza, to Jordan.

Israeli President Itzhak Navon paid a visit to the family of the late Emil Grunzweig who was killed during a demonstration by the 'Peace Now' movement, and presented his condolences to the bereaved family. Navon expressed fears of further disturbances and acts of violence inside Israel. "We all stand now on the edge of danger," he said.

The Likud party magazine "Yoman Hashavon" in its Wednesday issue accused the Marakh members of collaboration with the Peace Now movement and with other leftist circles to start a civil war in Israel.

The magazine added that the supporters of the Peace Now movement are planning armed operations against Jewish militants, especially the Gush Emunim group and Tehiya.

In a related development professor of Arab literature at the Hebrew University, Yeshia Lipovitch, held a press conference in which he urged a violent reply to the militant rightists in Israel. "We

King due in Bucharest, Belgrade

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein will pay official visits to Romania and Yugoslavia on Thursday for talks on the latest developments in the Middle East crisis in the wake of Israel's invasion of Lebanon last June, the royal court announced.

The King, who will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, will also confer with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and President Sergei Kraigherv of Yugoslavia.



The rally of antiwar protesters outside Prime Minister Begin's office, at which a hand grenade killed one Peace Now movement member (AP wirephoto)

have to practise terrorism against terrorism in Israel," he said.

Lipovitch requested that Israeli troops refrain from military service in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza, and to declare armed military to topple Begin and Sharon.

Lipovitch said he needs 4,000 troops to crush the militant right inside Israel, and that it might

take a civil war to take over the government from rightists.

The movement called "There are Limits" issued a statement Wednesday containing a warning to the militant elements against the commitment of further acts of violence, like that which killed Grunzweig. "We have ordered our men to use all means to defend themselves including the use of arms," the statement added.

Expert pessimistic on peace possibilities

By Abdulnalam Y. Massarueh
Star Washington Correspondent

DR. WILLIAM Quandt, a former senior staff member of the National Security Office at the White House, and a current senior fellow at the well known Washington think-tank, The Brookings Institute, meeting with Washington Foreign Press Corps early this month found very little interest among those Israelis who have traditionally been sceptical of Arab intentions in the idea of bringing Jordan and the Palestinians to the negotiation table with Israel.

Dr. Quandt also maintained that he found very few people among what might be called "Begin's constituency", in the Likud Party, who felt that any significant change of policy would be the appropriate Israeli response to an offer of peace negotiations by Jordan and the Palestinians.

Quandt insisted on the tone of pessimism that he gathered from being in Israel and talking to Israelis from all political persuasions, in the context of a fact-finding five-week trip to the Middle East, which took him to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

The former architect and composer of the peace agreement of Camp David, when he was on the staff of Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, sounded the alarm that he does not think there is at least reason to question the theory that there would be a change of attitude in Israel comparable to the reaction when President Sadat visited Jerusalem, if King Hussein and

the Palestinians were to make a move toward the negotiating table.

This idea is one that has been advocated by the Reagan administration which has repeatedly voiced its hope that the Jordanian King will come forward with a mandate from the Palestinians, so he can negotiate with the United States.

Dr. Quandt said that the feeling and the impression he received from the Jordanians fortify this notion. "Yes I mentioned I was surprised by how many Jordanians and Palestinians that I spoke to thought that the King was approaching the moment when he would make such a statement, and within a relatively short period of time."

The King wields assurances that he would have Palestinian support, and it is believed here in Washington that the King is getting the support of the PLO and its leadership, as evidenced from the last trip which PLO and its leadership, as evidenced from the last trip which PLO chairman Yasser Arafat undertook to Amman on Monday and other lines of communication and support which were opened between them.

The American Middle Eastern expert made the following observations about the importance of reaching a unified position between the Jordanians and the PLO. Quandt said that King Hussein shares the feeling that time is running out on finding a solution of the problem of the Palestinians and the West Bank and Gaza.

Quandt observed that after last summer's

war in Lebanon, the Jordanian government takes seriously the fact that Sharon may not just have a peaceful process of change in mind, but may be willing to use Israel's power to bring about such a change.

Among the positive motives for the Jordanian King to consider are the Reagan peace proposals, as envisaged in the 1st September speech.

Quandt said that the Reagan initiative "puts the United States clearly on record as opposing annexation of the West Bank and Gaza."

It acknowledges that the Palestinian question is not simply a matter of refugees, and it has the formula of self-governing West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan, which is similar to the old concept of the United Arab Kingdom or the current concept of a confederation of Jordan and Palestine.

When asked about his expectation on the Algiers Palestine National Council conference scheduled to convene on 14 February, Quandt said: "The likely outcome of the Algiers conference is a re-endorsement of the Fez position, a vote of confidence in Arafat to continue the dialogue with Jordan, and perhaps a statement of support for the concept of a confederation between a Palestinian state and Jordan. On the formal level I wouldn't expect much more than that. But that might be enough just to leave the door open."

What about the question of King Hussein joining the peace process? Quandt said: "There is at least one condition that would be attached to any statement by the King or by a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation, and that is that they would enter negotiations, provided

that once negotiations begin Israel cease settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza."

But with his assessment and hopes about the peace process, Quandt also voiced concern that if Begin will persist and remain in power, he will sabotage all peaceful efforts according to President Reagan's initiative and will stipulate anything of a real solution to the Palestinian question or the freeze and the curtailment of Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza.

But Quandt was not forthcoming and specific when the question of "how to deal with Israel" was raised. He only expected the pressure to continue but he singled out the US Congress which gave the wrong signals and approved more money to Israel instead of shutting off financial and military spigots bringing Israel to her senses and be ready to make peace with its neighbours in the Middle East.

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'Germany supports confederation'

By Lella G. Deeb
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN—German responsibility extends not only to the Jews who were victims of Nazi persecution but to the Palestinians who suffered from it indirectly, West German Minister of State at the Foreign Office Jurgen Moellmann said on Wednesday.

In an exclusive interview with The Star and Ad-Dustour Arabic dailies, Mr. Moellmann said this responsibility is the reason West Germany supports not only Israel's right to exist, but the Palestinian right to self-determination. That is why Germany strongly supports the concept of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, and hopes that this idea will be supported by the current Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

"This is a realistic way to fulfill the Palestinian right of self-determination," he said. Queried on the existence of an independent Palestinian state within the confederation, the minister said that it is not up to the Europeans to decide.

It is a matter for the peoples of the area, who, with the superpower involved—the United States, which can guarantee a solution—have to find out how the problems can be solved. "If they come to the conclusion that there should be two independent states, Jordan and a Palestinian state, then we have to accept it."

Chancellor Helmut is planning a visit to the area, Mr. Moellmann said in reply to a question about Mr. Kohl's impending visit to Israel; "but that doesn't change Germany's position, which means the chancellor will tell the Israelis exactly what he told Mr. Shamir." Bonn demands a total withdrawal, without any preconditions, of all Israeli troops from Lebanon, and a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. In Jordan in particular, the minister said he would discuss the policies of His Majesty King Hussein and the government.

Asked about the role of European Community countries in finding a peaceful solution to the



Star Staff Writer Lella G. Deeb with Minister of State Moellmann

problems of the area, Mr. Moellmann said that first, the main work should be done by the states and peoples concerned. "What we can do is to support efforts that have been started here, by encouraging those who are ready to make compromises, by criticizing very clearly those who are creating new problems instead of solving old ones."

Mr. Moellmann said the purpose of his current trip visit to Lebanon and Jordan was to discuss bilateral relations with both countries, chances to improve them, the chances of a peaceful solution to the Lebanese problem, the withdrawal of all troops and a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. In Jordan in particular, the minister said he would discuss the policies of His Majesty King Hussein and the government.

King Hussein received Mr. Moellmann at the Royal Court on Wednesday evening.

PNC debates urgent issues for Palestine

ALGIERS (KUNA)—The Palestine National Council Parliament-in-exile, meeting on Wednesday for the third successive day, discussed the Arab and American peace plans, possibilities of co-operation with Jordan and other issues of importance.

Speaking before the session, PLO Political Department head Fawzi Kaddoumi rejected President Reagan's 1 September peace plan and described the objectives of that initiative as "not different from the Camp David accords."

"They are aiming at guaranteeing the continuation of Israel's superiority over all Arabs," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi said the initiative came within the framework of the American strategy for the region which is based on the alleged Soviet threat, thus "finding facilities for the US through which it can impose its economic, political and military control on the area and guarantee Israel's superiority."

He added that "the Reagan Plan was not a deviation from Camp David because it rejected the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, and at the same time called on the Arab countries to recognize Israel."

PLO Deputy Commander Khalil Al-Wazir said in a press conference that the committee assigned by the Palestinian leadership to work out a formula for the Palestinian stand towards peace moves and relations with all the Arab regimes, particularly the Syrian, Egyptian and Jordanian regimes.

The Palestinian leader denied rumours that any secretary general of a Palestinian group had walked out of the meetings held by the Palestinian leadership or the PNC in protest at different viewpoints with any other Palestinian leader.

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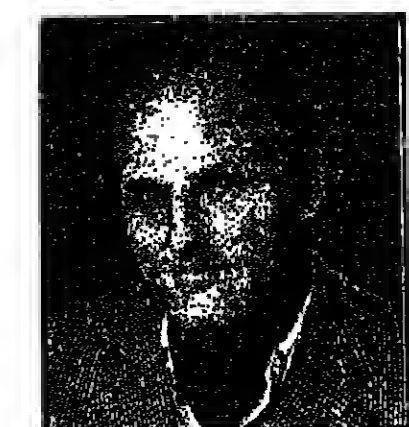
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Work begins on Amman's SOS children's village

By Leila G. Deeb
Star Staff Writer

MR. WOLFGANG Krug von Nidda, SOS representative in Jordan is a "man of action" who he feels the job of organising an SOS children's village in Amman is ideal for him. It allows him to be active, to meet people and to carry responsibility.

The idea for the village came from Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky who contacted Her Majesty Queen Noor and the Jordan Association of SOS was born with the Queen as honorary president. An agreement, authorising the establishment of the village and signed by the Ministry of Social Development and SOS, was presented to the Queen on Sunday night by Minister of Social Development Mrs. In'am Mifti.



Wolfgang Krug von Nidda

Comprehensive role

Mr. Krug von Nidda's job will involve all aspects of the project: starting the work, signing the agreement, finalizing the contract, supervising the architectural plans and the construction, planning the garden, furniture etc. He says one of the most interesting aspects of the project is the day-to-day challenge and decision-making and knowing that something worthwhile will come of your efforts. He says the pay is small but the rewards are rich.

Mr. Krug von Nidda has been with SOS for over two years, mostly in the Africa department. He studied cultural anthropology, political science and Chinese language and history, and has lived in many places, including Taiwan. He established the SOS Africa office which now has 27 villages. After the establishment of the Amman village Mr. Krug von Nidda will be supervising the villages in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Sudan.

The Amman village will be built in accordance with the four principles of SOS, that is providing the child with a mother, brothers and sisters, a house and a village. The children will be integrated into community life through attendance at local government schools, associating with the local community and receiving neighbourhood children into the village kindergarten.

Land donation

The land for the village has been donated by the Jordan Armed Forces, and registered in the name of the Ministry of Social Development, which has allocated it for the use of the village. It is 30 dunums plus 333 square metres, in Tabarbour, opposite the Police Housing Project.

The village will have 11 family houses, an administration unit, a director's house, a kindergarten, and can also be used for conferences,

meetings, etc. The government will provide the infrastructure of roads, utilities, and things like building permits and other facilities. SOS will have a special standing as accorded to other international organizations.

A group of architects from Beirut are now working on plans for the village. Discussions with the architects at this point include the building programme and time schedule. Mr. von Nidda hopes that the preparations for construction will be completed by the end of the year, but the village will not be complete until 1985.

The family houses will be built to house one mother with six to ten children. There will also be a library with a meeting room, a small workshop, supervised by a handman who will also train the children who work in the shop to do small repair jobs in electrical items, woodwork, etc.

Financing

Mr. Kreisky has guaranteed that the Austrian government will pay for one house in the village, while the Tyrolean local government will pay for another. SOS hopes to make the village a special one by making it a village of nations, as a contribution towards peace in the Middle East. They will approach the Swiss, German, Scandinavian and other governments requesting to finance one house in the village.

Mr. Krug von Nidda said that at present the village is dependant for financing on European contributions. He said SOS was trying to find ways of reducing this dependancy by establishing local associations and by fund raising through sponsors.

Other ways are to try to bring in earnings to the villages through small industries such as farms, carpentry shops, auto repair garages etc. In Zimbabwe the village owns a large farm that produces cotton and rice and is run by a trained farmer.

Gambia has a furniture shop, the Ivory Coast a car repair shop and Cairo has a bakery, post office, cafeteria and garage, all attached to the neighbourhood centre. All contracts made both the people running these places are made on the condition that they train some of the young people from the village.

Mothers

Asked about the method of choosing the mothers for this village, Mr. Krug von Nidda said that advertisements will be placed in the local press and on television, and people will pass the information on by word of mouth.

The women must be between the ages of 25 and 40, either unmarried, widowed or divorced. The village will accept a mother with one of her own children. Once the women are selected they will be given training including housekeeping, shopping, nutrition, health, hygiene, book-keeping, and budgeting, as their budgets will have to be presented to the director on a monthly basis. This training will take about three to four months, and some of the prospective mothers will be expected to quit during the training period. The most important qualification for the mothers is their ability to truly love and care for children.

As soon as the village is ready, continued Mr. Krug von Nidda, five or six children will be moved into one house and mothers will take turns being responsible for it. More children will be added to the house, then more moved into other houses, and mothers will take over each house as it is completed.

A mother from one of the established villages in Egypt or Lebanon, a "mother supervisor", make come to Jordan to establish this training programme, or advise the trainer in cooperation with the director.

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close co-operation with the Ministry of Social Development, the mothers and the local association.

The age of the children will be from infancy up to ten years of age, unless a family comes at once. Preference would be given to a family of brothers and sisters, to be kept together. In such a case, children over the age of 10 will be accepted, as SOS would prefer not to split natural brothers and sisters, who will be put together.

The children will be mainly those who have lost both parents and have

no other family ties, or those who have lost one or other of their parents. In such cases, it will have to be made clear to everyone concerned, that these children will be the sole responsibility of SOS until they are old enough to take care of themselves.

SOS and the Ministry of Social Development have high hopes for this first village in Jordan, and believe it will fulfill a need for homes giving orphaned children the right kind of family atmosphere and up bringing.

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Official

• HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Princess Haya paid a visit to the tomb of the late Queen Alia on the sixth anniversary of her death.

• MR. ABDUL ROOUF Al-Rawahdeh has been appointed mayor of Amman Municipality, to succeed the late Isam Al-Ajlouni. The new mayor took up his duties on Monday morning, after he submitted his resignation from the National Consultative Council. The cabinet also decided to appoint Dr. Ismael Al-Farhan and Mawlood Abdul-Qader as members of the municipal council, succeeding Mrs. Haifa Al-Bashir and the late Khairuddin Al-Ma'uni.

• MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al-Qasbi met with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van der Broek and the accompanying delegation.

• CULTURE AND Youth Minister Marwan Abu Nowar will lead the Jordanian delegation to the fourth conference of Arab ministers of culture, to convene in Algiers from 9-11 May. The delegation includes Cultural Advisor Sulaiman Musa and Culture Department Director Haidar Mahmoud.

• SPEAKER of the Senate Ahmad Al-Tarawneh, received the ambassadors of China and of South Korea separately.

• MALDIVIAN Minister of Transport Ahmad Moja Taba made a one-day visit to Amman, during which he met with the Minister of Transport Ali Sulaiman and other officials.

• COMMANDER-in-chief of the Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received in his office the Pakistani deputy joint chief of staff.

Hussein receives Yaqub Khan

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday received visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahihzadah Yaqub Khan. The King and Mr. Yaqub Khan discussed the current situation in the Middle East, and the Palestinian cause. Mr. Yaqub Khan is on a four-day visit to Jordan. He also discussed with the King the effects of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer, and bilateral relations between Jordan and Pakistan.

European MPs' visit to coincide with festival

By Lella G. Deeb
Star Staff Writer

A EUROPEAN parliamentary group concerned with the Middle East will arrive in Amman on 29 March for a three-day visit, during which its members will hold discussions to establish a dialogue with Jordanian parliamentarians. Thomas C. O'Sullivan, delegate of the Commission of the European Communities in Amman, told The Star. The group will have 10 members, and will be led by Belgian Liberal deputy Mr. Luc Beyer de Ryke.

Describing the visit as "desirable," Mr. O'Sullivan said he believes that as a result of discussions, during their visit, the parliamentarians will have an opportunity for better orientation in their parliamentary discussions about the regions. He added that the European Parliament attaches great importance to this visit.

"We think it is very appropriate that they would come at this particular time, as the European commission delegation, in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Youth, is currently planning a spring festival in Amman."

Mr. O'Sullivan explained that the details of the festival are currently being worked out, and will be released later. Arrangements cover a large variety of cultural events, sports and exhibitions.

"The open character of Amman lends itself to this, the first large international festival which the Commission has planned in the Arab world."

The festival will start on 29 March and will continue for over three weeks.

EEC to sponsor essay contest

THE DELEGATION of the Commission of the European Communities in Amman will soon sponsor an essay competition open to all Jordanian secondary school students. The theme will be the relationship between the European Community and Jordan. "We would like people to think about Europe, as well as their own country," said Delegate Thomas O'Sullivan.

The winner will get a two-year scholarship to the United World College of the Adriatic in Trieste. The college prepares its students for the International Baccalaureate Diploma, which enables its holders to enter any university in Europe.

The EEC office will be sending forms for contest entry in all secondary schools.

Dutch visit highlights Jordan's importance



His Majesty King Hussein receives Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van der Broek

By Star Staff Writer

VISITING DUTCH Foreign Minister Hans van der Broek on Thursday told a press conference that his first visit outside Europe as foreign minister underlines the priority given to the Middle East and the long-standing friendship between Jordan and the Netherlands — especially at this crucial moment, when Jordan is playing such a vital role in the Middle East peace process.

The minister praised His Majesty King Hussein's "pragmatic" position regarding bridging the gap between the Reagan Initiative for Middle East peace and the Fez Plan. The outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, particularly after the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, will be decisive in reaching a solution to the Middle East problem.

He added that the signs were encouraging, and that the Fez Plan was a signal that the Arabs were looking sincerely for a political solution.

Asked by reporters to define "the

legitimate rights of the Palestinians," Mr. van der Broek declined, saying that this was up to the parties concerned. He stressed that the Netherlands adhered to the Venice Declaration principles, and that it was urgent to find a lasting solution to the Middle East conflict.

The Venice Declaration, issued by European Economic Community leaders after a summit in the summer of 1980, says that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be associated with any peace negotiations.

The minister was received by King Hussein, during his visit. He signed a bilateral agreement with the Jordanian Ministry of Transport, and discussed economic and technical co-operation with the National Planning Council.

He described his visit as "fruitful, rewarding and gratifying," thanks to the hospitality of his hosts.

Mr. van der Broek and his delegation left Jordan last Friday morning.

Prices start upturn

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

PRICES this week began to rise again after a six-week decline. But analysts still think they will not return to their year-end level until the end of February.

Daily transactions improved in volume, despite the fact that total transactions during this week dropped by 17.7 per cent compared to last week. Excluding the exceptional high deals of the last two weeks, a comparison shows that this week's volume of transactions has been large.

During the week from 8 to 14 February a total of 620,000 shares were handled, at a market value of JD 2,105 million, divided among 1,770 contracts. The daily average of transactions amounted to JD 421,000, with a deviation of 41.8 per cent or 8.4 per cent of total transactions.

The volume of handling within the banks sector dropped by 17.6 points compared to last week. But it still had the largest share of the market, with 58.2 per cent of total trading. Four banks out of 15 occupied 94.5 per cent of the sector's transactions, or 55 per cent of the market total.

Cairo Amman bank took 71.5 per cent of the sector or 41.6 per cent of the total. The total purchases of this bank's shares during the past two weeks have amounted to over JD 2.5 million. Large amounts of this stock were bought by members of one group, which could affect the existing board of directors of the bank.

The Islamic Bank came second, with 9.1 per cent of the sector's transactions or 5.3 per cent of the total, followed by the Bank of Jordan (8.6 per cent and 5 per cent respectively), and the Jordan Gulf Bank (5.1 per cent and 3.1 per cent).

Industry had second place with 22.8 per cent of the market, an increase of 8.2 points compared to last week. Five companies out of 25 had 51.1 per cent of the sector's transactions or 11.6 per cent of the total. Jordan Cement Factories represented 14.3 per cent of the sector or 3.2 per cent of the market total; then came Jordan Petroleum Refinery (10 per cent and 2.3 per cent), National Steel (9 per cent and 5.1 per cent) and came Dar Al-Dawa, with 8 per cent of the sector's transactions or 1.8 per cent of the market.

Services occupied third rank, with 13.7 per cent of the market, a rise of 7.5 points. Three companies out of 11 occupied 68.9 per cent of the sector or 9.4 per cent of the total. The National Company for General Investments had 47.5 per cent of the sector's business or 6.5 per cent of the total, followed by Jordan Electric Power (12.5 per cent and 1.7 per cent) and National Shipping Lines (8.9 per cent and 1.2 per cent).

The insurance sector ranked last, representing 5.5 per cent of the total market transactions, a rise of 1.9 points compared to last week.

Three out of 12 insurance companies occupied 40.3 per cent of the sector's transactions or 2.2 per cent of the total. Jordan French Insurance came first, with 16 per cent of the sector or 0.9 per cent of the total, followed by Arabians Seas Insurance (12.8 per cent and 0.7 per cent) and General Insurance (11.5 per cent of the sector's transactions or 0.6 per cent of the market total).

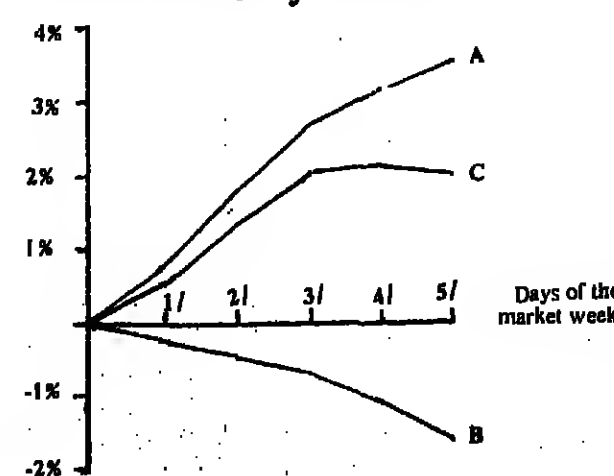
The shares of 63 companies were handled during this week; the share value of 34 of them rose. The National Industries Company closed at JD 1.040 up from JD 0.950; Cairo Amman Bank closed at JD 41 up from JD 37.500; National General Investments closed at JD 1.590 up from JD 1.470; the Housing Bank closed at JD 2.890 up from JD 2.700 and Intermediate Petrochemical Industries closed at JD 1.700 up from JD 1.590.

The shares of 17 companies lost. Jordan Timber Processing Industries closed at JD 0.760 down from JD 0.820; United Insurance closed at JD 4.500 down from JD 4.700; Al-Nisr Exchange closed at JD 1.540 down from JD 1.600; Irbid District Electricity closed at JD 1.300 down from JD 1.350, and Jordanian Industrial Investments Company closed at JD 1.450, down from JD 1.500.

Twelve companies recorded no change in price.

The record price figure showed a rise of 2 per cent at the end of the week. Hesitation reached a daily average of 0.9 per cent, indicating that the market is warming up.

The weekly record



A. Companies showing a share price increase this week
B. Companies showing a price decrease
C. The mean record figure

Implementation starts with two loans

EEC aid plan gets rolling

By Steven Ross
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN—Two loans extended recently to the Industrial Development Bank of Jordan (IDB) by the European Investment Bank (EIB) mark the start of payments under a five-year aid protocol that started officially on 1 November 1981.

The loans total 7.5 million European currency units (about \$7 million). They will be used for small and medium-size industrial lending. Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) magazine reported, Jami Gerslov, economic counsellor for the European Communities Commission in Amman, told The Star that industry would get about 25 per cent of the 63 million ECUs allocated for Jordan under the protocol.

But he said agriculture was another of the programme's top priorities, also getting a quarter of the money available. Infrastructure development projects will get about 20 per cent, education and energy about 10 per cent each and miscellaneous programmes including social development, health and technical assistance account for the rest of the aid.

Three categories of aid

Aid to Jordan under the current protocol will come through three channels, Mr. Gerslov said, as "normal" loans from the EIB (37 million out of the 63 million ECU total), as direct grants coming out of the EEC Commission budget (19 million ECUs) and as "soft" loans from European countries arranged through the EIB.

The two IDB loans are under the first and third categories. One, for 5 million ECUs, carries annual interest of 9.15 per cent over 12 years. The second is for 2.5 million ECUs, and is at the soft loan rate of 1 per cent annually, over 40 years.

The time lag of more than a year (November 1981-January 1983) between initiation and implementation of the second EEC aid protocol with Jordan was due to the need to decide on, allocate funds and get approval for the individual assistance programmes, Mr. Gerslov said.

German firm sets record straight

AMMAN (Star)—The West German firm Held and Francke was not directly involved in an arbitrated settlement recently concluded with the Ministry of Transport, Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) magazine reported in its latest issue.

The dispute actually involved a subcontractor working with Held and Francke on the Aqaba Railway project, MEED said.

The Jerusalem Star reported that Held and Francke was to receive payment of DM 7 million (about JD 1 million), but would have to pay a fine of JD 91,000, for delays in completing the railway work. (Star 16/12/82 page 32). In fact, the delay was caused by a track-laying subcontractor who made the claim for payment from the ministry, MEED said.

There was no arbitration between the ministry and Held and Francke. But payments to the subcontractor, who was not named, will be made through Held and Francke. The German firm was reported as stressing that it completed its own work on the project on time.

to the commission headquarters in Brussels for approval.

The first protocol covered the period from 1977-1981, and involved an aid package of 40 million ECUs. It placed heavy emphasis on education programmes, and Mr. Gerslov says this is why more stress is given to agriculture and industry under the new agreement.

The largest single project was the provision of 6.68 million ECUs to support the construction and development of the new Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan. After the European assistance and Jordan's own efforts, this facility is potentially the best in the Middle East. A large amount was also made available for Yarmouk University in Irbid.

The Vocational Training Corporation, the Royal Scientific Society and the Ministry of Education also benefited greatly under the first protocol. And lending for industrial development, including the Sahab Industrial Estate and the Amman electricity network, started off.

Under the overall framework of the agreement (covering both five-year periods), the community also offers Jordan virtual free access to the European market for its products. This, along with a wide range of support to development projects outside the main areas, strengthens bilateral ties and mutual interdependence. According to EEC officials this "gives each of the partners its own authority, not only in trade and commerce, but also in the general forum of world politics."

In Brief

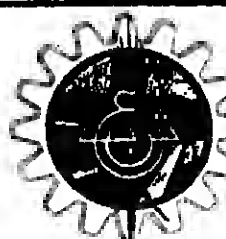
• THE AGRICULTURAL Credit Corporation (ACC) will borrow JD 1 million from the Central Bank of Jordan under a proposal approved by the cabinet this week. The government-guaranteed loan is to be repaid within five years. It is meant to help ACC meet its obligations during 1983, a report in Ad-Dustour newspaper said. ACC relents funds from international development agencies to farmers to help them establish and improve agricultural projects.

• CENTRAL BANK of Jordan Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi and Minister of Finance Salem Masa'ed will represent Jordan at the seventh conference of governors of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, to be held in early March. The two-day conference will discuss the bank's activities and achievements during 1982 and its policy for the coming year on development loans and co-operation with Islamic member states, the Jordan News Agency Petra reported.

• THE JORDAN Securities Corporation (JSC) increased its authorised capital from JD 2 million to JD 4 million, and shareholders' equity to JD 6.4 million, in a heavily oversubscribed stock issue this week. JSC Director General Sa'id Hammami told The Star there had been a total of 7 million subscriptions to the 2 million shares issued, resulting in a premium of JD 0.700 over the nominal share value of JD 1. JSC decided on an allocation formula of a maximum of 30 shares for each subscriber, in addition to 9 per cent of the remainder of equity.

• TENDERS invited this week for consultants to prequalify for the construction of an NPK plant in Jordan were the result of co-ordination among the Arab Polish Company (APC), the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC) and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC). NPK is a compound fertiliser combining nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, the last two of which are available from operations of the APC and JPMC respectively. APC Deputy Director Sulaiman Hawari told The Star the project is under study by a co-ordinating committee of the three companies. If a plant to produce NPK is set up, he said, its construction would be financed and its equity shared by the three firms.

• THE LOCAL Jordanian-Turkish Construction Company has won the tender to construct a student activities building on the University of Jordan campus, The Star learned. The university, announcing the project award, said the contract value was JD 1.6 million and the implementation period was 20 months. The building will have a 10,000-seat auditorium and other facilities for recreational and educational activities.



The Arab Potash Co. Ltd. INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

The Coordination Committee for the fertilizer industries in Jordan invites:-

Consultants specialized in NPK's feasibility studies to submit their qualification documents to the

ARAB POTASH CO.
P.O. BOX 1470
AMMAN - JORDAN
no later than March 15th, 1983.

Ali Khasawneh,
President of the Coordination Committee

In Brief

• THE CABINET has approved an agreement between the Civil Aviation Department and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), under which FAA will train Jordanian airport personnel. Director General of Civil Aviation Saleh Al-Kurdi was authorized to sign on behalf of the Jordanian government.

• THERE WERE 59 expropriation transactions during 1981, Ad-Dustour newspaper reported. A total of 30,678 dunums have been expropriated, at an estimated cost of JD 13.3 million.

• ALIA, THE Royal Jordanian Airline, on Sunday distributed awards to 11 travel offices in Jordan which had rendered valuable services to promote tourism to Jordan.

• THE MINISTRY of Labour has requested the Amman Chamber of Industry to name a delegation of Jordanian businessmen to the forthcoming Arab Labour Conference, to convene in Amman on 6 March.

• THE 10th meeting of the chemical industries

sector was held on Sunday evening at the Amman Chamber of Industry. It discussed problems of marketing, exports, customs duty, primary material resources and specifications.

• EXCAVATION and repair work at Jerash has led to the discovery of a Byzantine church dating back to the year AD 570, it was announced this week.

• A SWISS economic delegation will arrive in Amman on Friday to discuss with planning and development officials means of reinforcing relations between the two countries.

• A meeting on modern quantitative methods in administration began on Sunday at the Jordanian Administrative Institute. The meeting will discuss subjects related to planning, administration, quantitative methods, the basics of dynamic programming and cost and time saving in administrative planning.

• A SEMINAR on Islamic economy was held this

week at the University of Jordan. The seminar aimed at extracting and confirming Islamic economic principles and consulting Islamic laws regarding economic activities and problems confronting society.

• AFTER A meeting between officials of the Ministry of Tourism and representatives from tourist offices, it was decided this week to form a Federation to promote domestic tourism.

• A SEMINAR on the technology of information gathering its storage and distribution on them according to the latest scientific electronic methods began on Sunday at the Professional Associations complex.

• THE SECRETARY General of the Arab Organization for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) discussed with the director of the Building Research Centre in the Royal Scientific Society the preparation of a quality control guide for concrete.

• The AOSM recently issued a quality control guide for the soap industry.

• THE MADABA branch of the Agricultural Credit Corporation has completed drilling three artesian wells in the eastern parts of the district. It was announced this week. The branch also supported 12 projects for sheepraising through loans to farmers and sheep raisers at a total value of JD 341,000.

• THE ARAB Higher Committee for Palestine issued a statement after a meeting in Amman, in which it wished success to the Palestine National Council in laying the foundations of co-operation and unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, and condemned intervention in Palestinian internal affairs.

• A TECHNICAL seminar on the operation and maintenance of modern telephone networks was held at the Telecommunications Corporation this week. Forty directors and engineers participated in this seminar, which aimed at reorganizing and modernising the operation, maintenance and installation of telephone networks.

READ....



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Unity evades Opec producers

By James H.D. Audu
Opec Editor-in-Chief

VIENNA -- The 66th conference meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), held here in December 1982, left open the issue of individual production quotas "to enable ministers to consult their respective governments with a view to concluding an agreement that would preserve Opec's \$34 per barrel based-price structure."

When a consultative meeting was summoned for a month later in Geneva, it was logically assumed an agreement had been reached and only needed the stamp of approval. After all, the Geneva summons was the culmination of ministers' consultations with their governments, a Kissinger-type shuttle by Yahya Dikko, current president of the conference and Humberto Calderon Berti of Venezuela, and a meeting of the Gulf producers, as well as informal meetings in Bahrain of eight of Opec's 13 oil ministers.

Yet this was not the case. Once again price differentials proved an insurmountable hurdle in the path of a production agreement.

No easy going

The Geneva consultations at the Intercontinental Hotel stretched over two days, and by the afternoon of the first it was evident that the going was far from easy. There were indications that the consultations were not limited to production sharing but involved other more complex elements—a production downward review of the overall production ceiling from the 18.5 million b/d fixed a month earlier, price cuts and threats by certain member countries against over-producers.

The ministers were supposed to resume their consultations at four, but did not. The time was then fixed for four-thirty, then six. No further meetings took place that day.

"The Gulf producers are meeting in Yamani's suite and are in touch with their countries. This is good," said one inside source. But it was not good, as events of the following day proved. Once again the ministers agreed to disagree.

Dikko himself said, "Having exhaustively discussed the issue without reaching an agreement, member states decided to end the consultations for the present, and to meet again at a later date."

For those who interpreted this lack of agreement as the dying throes of the 22-year-old organization, Dikko was quick to add, "all members remain committed to Opec and hope that the organization will reach an agreement in the near future, that will serve and protect the interests of all members, jointly and severally."

How each member perceives its interests being "served and protected" under a production-sharing agreement is clearly at the crux of the problem.

Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah, oil minister of Kuwait, warned that if there was continuation of present practices "we will feel obliged to protect the interests of our own country first," while Ahmad Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia said "We cannot have production forever reduced because we need gas for water desalination and for electricity generation."

For the Gulf producers "serving and protecting" their interests could only be achieved by a production-sharing formula involving three areas, according to Sabah.

The first would be the discontinuation of the discounting now being offered by many Opec member countries.

"The second is to have a proper price differential between the various Opec crudes without which we could not have a unified price system."

"Thirdly, a production programme with a ceiling and individual production quotas."

But the non-Gulf producers see the problem as essentially one of production. "The solution lies in setting a ceiling for Opec's production and agreeing to quotas for each member state. Such quotas must be both equitable and credible," said Dikko.

Nigeria tabled a production-sharing proposal it believed to be "equitable", based on a ceiling of 17.5 million b/d. Saudi Arabia was allocated 4.7 million b/d and Iran 2.5 million b/d.

Other members were allocated as follows: Indonesia 1.3 million b/d, Iraq 1.35 million b/d, Kuwait 1.15 million b/d, Libya 1.1 million b/d, Nigeria 1.35 million b/d, O.A.F. 1.1 million b/d, and Venezuela 1.5 million b/d. Algeria 0.75 million b/d, Ecuador 0.2 million b/d, Gabon 0.15 million b/d and Qatar 0.10 million b/d.

Production proposal "accepted"

According to Dikko, this was the only proposal discussed and was initially accepted by 11 member states, including Iran, Libya and Venezuela, as being the most effective way of dealing with the present situation.

However, two countries, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, withheld their assent and were joined later by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Together they rejected the proposal for its lack of increased differentials on the lighter African crudes and the absence of any undertaking to cease discounts.

The Gulf producers would like to see a differential of at least \$5 per barrel between the marker crude, Arabian Light, and the light African crude to make it more competitive. The present differential is \$1.50. As an alternative they suggested a cut in the \$34 price differential marker crude as a way of increasing the differential.

The Africans regard any increase in differentials as tantamount to being asked to increase their prices at a time when crude oil prices have been depressed and the market is continuing to deteriorate.

They argued that "accepting the ceiling and the quotas will be in deciding the matter of differentials," which should be the subject of "further consultations."

The non-Gulf producers said the Geneva consultations were arranged to include price differentials, an issue they claimed was brought in at the last minute to deliberately torpedo the meeting.

Yamani countered, "It is known that any agreement on production must include the issue of differentials and discounts. Maybe from this time, but these have always been a precondition."

Facing the issues of public morality

By Len Rockingham

Star London Correspondent

LONDON -- In the past week, the British public have been brought face to face with two issues of public morality, which have dominated debate not only in the press and on radio and television, but also in a great deal of private conversation.

The first of the two issues was presented by the report from Israel of the Kahon Commission on the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shaila camps of Beirut.

Then a few days later came the debate in the General Synod of the Church of England on Britain's possession of nuclear weapons, which had been sparked off by publication last year of a controversial report called "The Church and the Bomb".

To readers of "The Jerusalem Star", the two issues may seem quite dissimilar. The one is of immediate relevance to the whole crisis in the Middle East.

It has received extensive world-wide coverage in the media and has already led to the resignation of Ariel Sharon from his post as Israeli Defence Minister although not - as many expected - his removal from the Israeli cabinet.

The other issue, by comparison, may seem to be of lesser and more parochial British interest: simply another manifestation of the anti-militarist mood which appears to be gripping the Christian churches in the West today.

But the two issues do bear comparison. For one thing, it is rare for two issues of major public morality to be presented to the public in such a short space of time, especially when they are of such explosive relevance to day-to-day politics.

Moreover, both of these issues have a religious and theological aspect to them, although in both cases this has been obscured very quickly by the political aftermath.

When the news of the Kahon Commission's report broke in Britain last Tuesday, the British Press without exception praised its moral courage but yet also saw it as a condemn-

nation - not just of Generals Sharon, Eitan and the other persons named - but of the whole Begin government.

In their editorial columns, the papers were virtually unanimous in seeing the report as an indictment of the whole Begin policy of invading Lebanon and of seeking to "Judaize" the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan.

And most of the papers predicted that Menachem Begin would be forced to call a general election as a result of the Kahon report.

Official reaction was far more restrained. Although it was announced that the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Francis Pym, had discussed the report with the visiting American Vice-President, Mr. George Bush, official statements in London as in Washington emphasized that this was essentially an internal Israeli matter.

The reasoning behind the official reticence was not difficult to understand.

The result could well be to rally Israeli nationalist support around General Sharon and in the short term to make the negotiations for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon that much more difficult.

These fears were soon proved accurate. Within days, the British Press was telling its readers of the violent and vociferous back-lash that was being mobilized in support of General Sharon and Mr. Begin.

It soon became clear that, although the Israeli cabinet had voted for Sharon's removal from the Defence post, he would stay on in the Cabinet perhaps in the role of overlord of the occupied territories.

All of this left Israel's supporters in Britain looking rather stupid.

The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Mr. Greville Janner MP, had welcomed the Kahon report as evidence of "Israel's vibrant and vociferous democracy", but he had no comment to make on the way in which General Sharon had clung to his cabinet seat.

The nuclear debate in the Synod of the Church of En-

gland also springs from a report which posed a moral issue in uncompromising terms.

When the report on "The Church and the Bomb" was published last year, it stated that Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and its intention to use them if necessary was unacceptable in terms of Christian morality.

The report caused consternation in church circles and drew some scathing attacks from the ruling conservative party.

Thus, when the General Synod came to debate the report on Thursday, the television cameras were there in abundance and the proceedings were broadcast live on one radio channel.

In terms of the calmness and decency with which the bishops, priests and lay people debated these matters of strategic importance it was generally agreed to have been a positive contribution to national thinking on the nuclear issue.

But the Synod soon disposed of the unilateralist position adopted by "The Church and the Bomb" report. That was heavily outvoted.

The Synod affirmed its support for Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and its membership of the NATO alliance, but it called on the government to renounce the policy of "first strike".

Mrs. Thatcher stated that she was pleased with the result of the debate, since it had rejected the unilateralist position, but her Defence Minister went on to affirm that the threat to use nuclear weapons first, if necessary, is vital to the credibility of NATO's nuclear deterrent against the Russians.

What was the point of arming yourself for defence if your opponent knew that he could always get in the first blow?

The whole nuclear issue is certain to be a major issue in the coming general election due within a year, and the government is so concerned about the issue that it is intending to spend a million pounds on putting its case across to the British public.

US fuel aid programme falters

Emergency funds nearly gone

By James Ridgeway
Pacific News Service

WASHINGTON--As the winter turns more seasonably cold, federal and state officials across the nation are nervously eyeing another warning sign in the bleak economic landscape.

They know that in state after state, increasing numbers of Americans cannot pay their heating bills and that the government programme meant to help them has almost run out of money.

With millions of people unemployed, natural gas bills steadily climbing and public funds for fuel assistance disappearing, the situation is fast becoming critical. Hundreds of thousands of households are already involved.

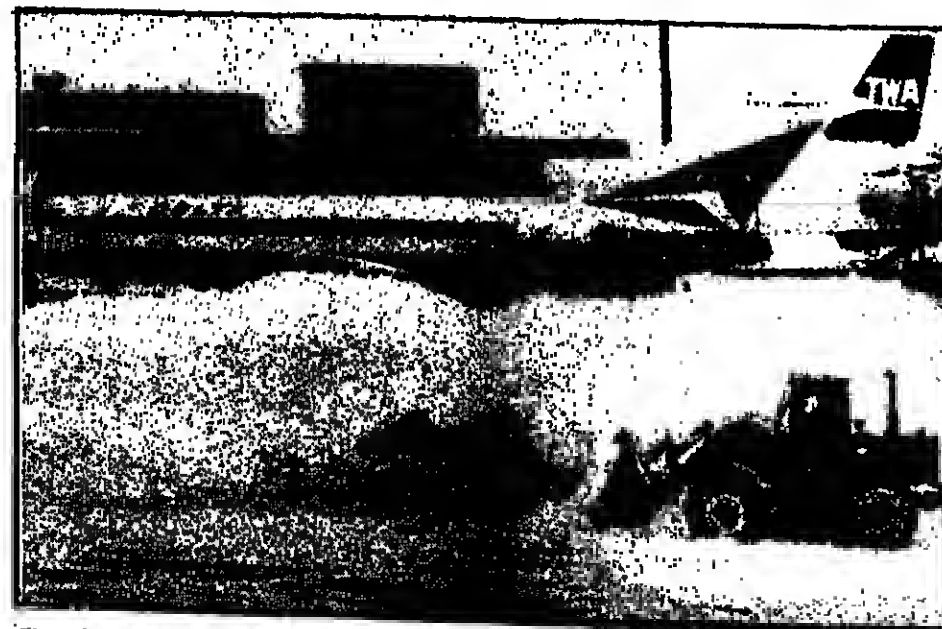
Under a federal block grant for low-income, home energy assistance, 20 million US households are in theory eligible for coverage. The coverage amounts to a one-time payment—enough generally to carry the household through the two or three worst months of the winter.

The assistance began on a crisis basis in 1977, under the now-disbanded Community Services Administration. With the elimination of that agency by President Reagan, the fuel assistance programme was turned into a block grant to the states amounting to a current total of about \$3 billion. The funds represent a percentage of the oil windfall profits tax, and are supposed to cushion the effects of oil and gas deregulation on the nation's poor.

As unemployment has swollen, however, \$3 billion has turned out to be simply not enough money.

The inability of many households to pay their winter energy bills is but one aspect of the problem. Worse yet, potentially, is how to keep utilities in business when they are faced with tens of thousands of customers who can't buy fuel. In certain parts of the country, the threatened collapse of the energy assistance programme may trigger far more expensive calls for utility bailouts.

The situation is most serious in the industrial Midwest. In Indiana, where official unemployment is running at 14 per cent, over 160,000 households have applied for energy assistance, up from 115,000 last year. Average benefits under the programme have declined from \$274 a year in



Storm in Boston: Americans face frigid weather without heat

1980 to \$209 now. Meanwhile, the average annual gas bill has climbed 40 per cent to \$773, an increase of \$212.

There is no ban on winter disconnection by utilities in Indiana. Last winter, 41,000 customers were cut off by the state's 10 largest electric and gas utilities.

Expectations are that Indiana will run out of money in a few weeks. Lawyers working in the energy assistance programme believe that as many as 5,000 households in the state are already without gas. They report people doubling up, abandoning their homes, huddling under electric blankets or cranking in front of an electric oven to keep warm.

In Milwaukee, requests for assistance are up 40 per cent over last year at this time, with some 40,000 households applying. The energy assistance programme in Wisconsin is expected to run out of money in mid-February.

Officially, there is a ban in the state against utility disconnection when a health hazard exists in a household and the temperature drops below freezing. Last year, some 85,000 households in

Milwaukee alone were reported to be in arrears on gas bills. Disconnect notices were sent out to 46,000 in the spring.

With back bills averaging approximately \$1,000, the prospect of renewing service is not strong for some of these households. In fact, the numbers of people unable to pay for gas in Milwaukee are so high that the utilities and the state are trying to work out a bailout scheme to finance utility operations without cutting households off.

The story is much the same elsewhere in the nation. Nearly 85 per cent of West Virginia's energy assistance money was gone as of early January. Virginia ran out of funds in December, after 90,000 households had applied; emergency funds have temporarily revived the programme. In Utah, average benefits have declined from \$378 in 1980 to \$224 in 1983, while gas rates jumped 24.3 per cent last year.

The Citizen's Labour Energy Coalition, a national consumer group, estimates that 10,000 to 12,000 households were disconnected in Chicago in early January. And in St. Louis, where an estimated 5,000-7,000 homes have lost service, the city is handing out wood-burning stoves.

Experts warn of new oil crunch

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A sudden, sharp drop in world petroleum prices could lead to a "1970s style oil crisis" within the next three years, two American energy experts warned in a television interview.

Oil industry consultant Walter Levy, commenting on market conditions following the recent Opec meeting in Geneva, said a precipitous decline in oil prices was now not impossible.

A sudden fall to between \$20 and \$25 per barrel would "provide the basis for a new oil supply-demand crisis," he said.

Thomas Burns, an economist with standard oil of California, pointed out that the world economy "doesn't adapt very well to the high shocks."

He said the world oil industry was too large for the current level of demand. This was true not only in Opec, at the producing stage, but also in the refining sector, transportation and marketing.

"All along the line people are competing," he declared, and it is actually producer price in the US that have led crude oil prices downward.

Mr. Levy said a major price decline would wipe out any inducement for conservation, and oil exploration in non-Opec countries "will be so badly affected that we just provide the basis for a new oil supply-demand crisis."

He added that falling prices caused by the oil glut were already having an impact. "At this time, the synthetic oil industry to our country has practically ceased to exist. Oil from shale is basically dead."

In another commentary, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has warned Opec states that continued overproduction could well create a situation not unlike the one in the 1960s when oil glut wiped out the earnings of producing countries, while greatly benefiting the importers.

An editorial in the current issue of the Opec monthly bulletin agrees with forecasts that the present glut will continue into 1984.



Jimmy Carter

Fidel Castro

John F. Kennedy

Garrulous Castro chats the night away

By Geoffrey Matthews

BOGOTA (ONS)--Fidel Castro is a great talker who likes nothing better than to smoke his cigars and drink Cuban rum into the early hours of the morning while discussing the politics of Latin America.

As part of the continuing overtures between Cuba and Colombia to renew diplomatic relations, served almost two years ago, a group of Colombian journalists recently visited Havana and sat with Castro in a characteristically garrulous mood one night as he ruminated on US President Cuba's relations with the Soviet Union, and revolution.

He talked until four in the morning and stopped only because his audience was exhausted, though hardly bored. Some notable excerpts:

On Central America: "There exist possibilities for agreement but only because the Yankees are losing ground... There's nothing more absurd than to blame the Soviets for the conflict."

What have they to do with the exploitation and poverty of that area? Perhaps we've got something to do with it but not because of our relations with the Soviet Union."

On the Kremlin's new leader, Yuri Andropov: "He left me with a good impression. He is a prudent, serious, well-prepared man."

On John F. Kennedy: "In spite of his hostility against Cuba and attempts on my life authorized by him, I must recognize that he was a brilliant man."

On Jimmy Carter: "The least bad of US Presidents in recent times. He is a man of principles who acted on them. The same cannot be said of many American Presidents."

On Ronald Reagan's "Caribbean Basin Initiative": "What a contrast between Kennedy's At-

tance for Progress, which dealt out \$20,000 million (in aid) and the \$350 million of the Reagan plan for the Caribbean--\$350 million won't even solve the problems of Jamaica."

On Huber Matos, freed two years ago after spending 20 years in Cuban jails for allegedly plotting rebellion after Castro aligned Cuba with the Soviet bloc: "A legend has been created that Huber Matos is a comrade of the first hours of the revolution. In reality, he didn't join us until April of 1958, when we had already practically won."

"As he was a teacher and at that time our people were not very well prepared, we quickly gave him positions of responsibility, but I had my doubts which were confirmed one day when I was told he had taken a machine-gun without permission."

"Later he tried to start an uprising which could have cost us many lives. After that, what did he expect—that we put him in jail for three months and then let him go?"

On the poet Armando Valladares, another political prisoner released late last year after over 20 years in jail following pressure by the French government: "Valladares isn't dissident, nor a poet, nor a paralytic. He had worked for Batista (the pro-revolution dictator) when the revolution triumphed."

"We had him examined by the best doctors and they found nothing wrong with him. Finally we decided to film him in jail without his knowing and we discovered that he did exercises every morning before adopting the role of paralytic. We showed the film to President Mitterrand."

On revolution: "It makes one laugh when they say we export revolution. Revolution can't be exported, it's a naive thing. If revolution could be exported, we could export it to 100 countries. But it can't be done."

On truth: "Sometimes one cannot tell the whole truth, but I've never told a lie."

middle east

Begin's Israel: 'Dependency without responsibility'

By Geoffrey Besik
Special to the Star

Part III

UNTIL THE 1 SEPTEMBER initiative, the Reagan administration seemed to have changed US policy in favour of Israel. Despite reiterating that settlements were "harmful to peace," Reagan did declare that they were "not illegal" at a 2 February, 1981 news conference. Israel has chosen to ignore the reported state department announcements that the settlements are "unhelpful," and begun quoting Reagan as justification for its policy, all the while continuing to aggressively establish new "facts."

On 19 November, 1981, Reagan told an American-Jewish audience that Jerusalem should remain unified and under Israeli control. Again, this pointed to a change in US policy, which had been that the status would be determined only through negotiations. Begin was further encouraged to expand his efforts.

The Reagan administration then, however, reconsidered its posture and suspended a Memorandum of Understanding (signed 1 December, 1981) after Israel extended its law to the Golan Heights on 14 December. The administration even held up delivery of F-16s for a while in reaction to the bombing of the Baghdad nuclear reactor.

But still, until very recently, there has been no evidence of any willingness to actually use what leverage the US has to change Israeli attitudes. This has led to a situation that George Ball calls "dependency without responsibility," for Israel has felt free to take positions at variance with American (and even its own) interests, without fear of substantial admonition. The United States is deprived of freedom of diplomatic action, and looks impotent and irresolute.

Patron-client relationship

American-Israeli differences over the West Bank touch the very centre of a "patron-client" relationship and its limitations. The United States simply does not seem to know how to act as a super-power, and how to support its own interests with conviction backed by concrete action. If the tail is not wagging the dog, at least Israel seems able to manipulate the United States, often using Congress against the White House and the state department. While on paper the United States has taken a clear stand opposing Israeli settlement policies, the position has lacked any teeth. The United States has done precious little to dissuade Israel from its course, and has, in fact, acted "cowardly" in public, only privately admitting to different attitudes.

Why has the United States acted as it has up to this point? Why does it not only acquiesce in Israeli "faits accomplis," but continue to bankroll them? What are the lies that blind this "special relationship" and justifies such unparalleled aid? Particularly as other interests are jeopardized by continued identification with Israel's absorption of Arab territories and East Jerusalem.

The view from the state department has always been that the longer Israel "facts" continue, the harder it will be to turn back the clock. But for a variety of reasons that elude, and the implied course of action, has not prevailed.

First of all, domestic politics has constrained US policy-makers concerning the Middle East, which is to say that leading politicians and candidates are fully aware of American-Jewish "influence." This influence goes beyond mere numbers of votes or financial contributions to campaigns, and it is more than the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (the "Israel/Jewish lobby"), which does work effectively to influence public opinion. An example of American-Jewish influence is the labour union movement, where votes and financial resources are considerable, and politicians listen to the concerns of labour when they need to.

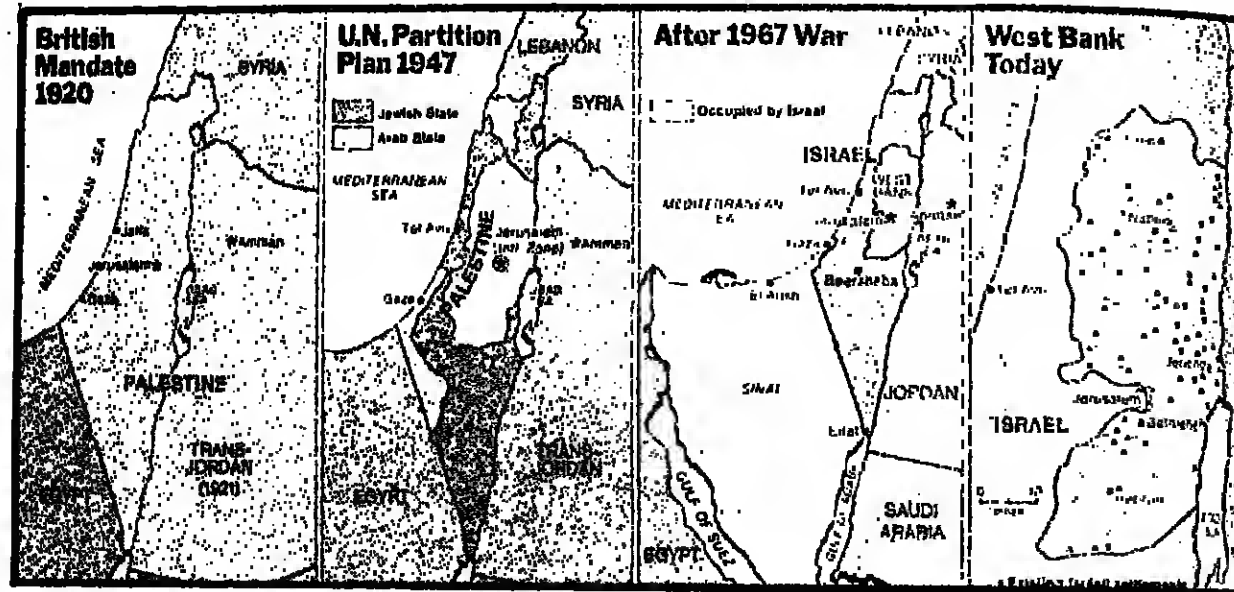
Also, there hasn't been much to counter the lobbying with in the way of public opinion support. The American people have long been pro-Israel, sympathetic with its plight and admiring of its achievements. This is beginning to change, but only recently, largely due to the excesses of this past summer's Lebanese war, and the increasing knowledge of the American public about the Palestinians. The changing attitude is most significantly reflected in the criticism of some prominent American Jews. Still, the American people see Israel as an ally and respond to the shared democratic values and western orientation. Furthermore, it is argued, most Americans simply are not interested in foreign affairs. They are more concerned with gas and oil prices, an issue much closer to home.

US burden

There is also an element of departmental infighting within the US bureaucracy. The Pentagon and intelligence agencies receive quite a bit of shared information from Israel as well as access to Soviet weaponry and emigres, testing of US military hardware, etc. It is certainly not a one-way street of US assistance. But again, this may be changing. There is the recognition that Israel is vastly superior militarily than its neighbours, and therefore strong enough. Moreover, supplying Israel sometimes means drawing down US inventories (for example, the re-supply of Israel in 1973 took weapons from NATO forces in Europe).

Still, the Pentagon and Israel's supporters work closely together. In fact, some say they work together so closely that the Pentagon would have a harder time getting its military assistance packages through Congress.

However, underlying the factors of domestic politics, public opinion, departmental infighting, etc. is the geopolitical view from Washington. Since the late 1950s the idea that Israel was a "strategic asset" has come to be the accepted assumption behind American



Israel's expansionism: A reflection of the spirit of the Zionist state

policy. Israel, an island of western democracy in the Middle Eastern desert, is seen as a "bulwark" against Soviet influence or expansion in this region, a threat to the all-important oil supplies. And Israel has not shirked the responsibilities of its role of serving American interests, even today, to some extent. Whether in combatting "radical nationalism" of the Nasserite variety, or supporting pro-Western interests in other parts of the world, Israel has played its part. Still today, Israel is seen as the most secure, valuable and reliable "base" near the oil resources.

There are signs that the Reagan administration is shifting some of its underlying assumptions, and other interests are coming to the fore. For the first year and a half, under Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the United States continued to adhere to the conventional geopolitical wisdom, seeking a "strategic consensus" of the pro-Western countries in the Middle East.

But this founded on the rocks of local, not global, problems. The real or imagined "Soviet threat" was not enough to make Ambs and Israel forget their differences.

Secretary Shultz has brought a different set of assumptions to American policy, like President Carter. He is well aware of the primacy of the Palestinian issue, and the American interests in the Arab world.

The time has come for the United States to finally insist on the cessation of settlement activity. We must dissociate ourselves from the policies of Israel's annexationist camp, and move decisively toward withdrawal and a compromise solution to the Palestinian issue. This is why President Reagan's initiative, limited and wanting as it may be, is a step in the right direction.

The United States must recognize that its total support only encourages the intransigence of Israel's hard-liners. What is more, it serves to eclipse Israel's relative "doves." Even members of the opposition Labour party privately urge a reduction in US aid according to editorial page editor Max Frankel in the New York Times "Editorial Notebook." Acknowledging their own political weakness, they are saying, in effect, "help us by cutting aid." Hopefully, Begin's policies can be stopped from the outside if not from within.

US views and actions

What can the US specifically do to back up its convictions with concrete actions? How can we serve our own interests, as well as those of the Arabs and the long-term interests of the Israelis? How can we convince Israel that it must offer the Arabs something besides the whip for them to negotiate?

Leverage is a tricky thing; all the more so in the case of Israel. Despite massive aid, patrons cannot really control their clients. But even recognizing that there is a risk that we will fail to move Israel off its present course, there are steps the United States should take.

Aid reductions is the most obvious step, and this is where the large battle with Israel may soon be fought. The United States can assess how much the settlements cost, and cut American aid to Israel by that amount. There is a growing recognition that there is no need for US taxpayers to pay for this counter-productive policy. But aid to Israel is a "sacred cow" and the "test" of American commitment to Israel. Congress continues to be manipulated, undermining administration efforts, as before.

The United States could remove aid to Israel from the category of "security assistance," thereby giving the state department's Agency for International Development authority to monitor how funds are spent.

The United States could begin to vote for UN resolutions which actually correspond to our stated policies, instead of awkwardly supporting Israel to remain in ill trust and confidence. For example, last June the United States vetoed UN Security Council Resolution calling for the simultaneous withdrawal of both Israeli and Palestinian forces from Beirut. The next day, the US voted against a General Assembly Resolution calling for an end to all hostilities in Lebanon and on the Lebanese-Israeli border. The vote was 127-2. That policy has clearly not paid off. There is precious little trust and confidence between the two countries. Keeping Israel psychologically "secure" has not brought forth the hoped-for concessions.

The United States can make perfectly clear its own ideas about a future resolution of the conflict, which President Reagan began to

do. We must convince Israel that her security can be guaranteed the same time the Palestinian problem is addressed. We cannot demilitarize West Bank. The US can even provide a presence there, as in Sinai.

The United States can place restrictions on Israeli exports from the occupied territories as the Europeans now do, whilst opposing boycotts and sanctions. The United States can, as Eisenhower threatened, remove the tax-deductible status of private wish contributions to Israel, which are quite substantial.

And finally, the United States could open a dialogue with the representatives of the Palestinians. Perhaps this would induce the to make more moderate, pragmatic moves. Indeed, Arafat tried negotiate for such a dialogue while still in Beirut last summer.

Historic responsibility

The point is, as many have said, the US must reduce its support not for Israel in general, but for its present policies and the status quo. Israel is denying the Arabs a deal, a deal most now seem willing to make. It is a short-sighted position, one fraught with the potential for disaster. And that disaster could spill over onto the United States unless something is done, now, for the US will be held historically accountable.

The interests of all parties require decisive American action. In Washington can do a lot to set the stage for some kind of solution. Be sure, there is a great need for courageous, independent movement on the part of Arab pragmatists. And until they, notably King Hussein or Arafat, make the bold move, many people will hedge from their now somewhat shaky support for Israel.

Yet they are looking to Washington to establish the context, the pre-conditions, within which an historic compromise can be reached. American interests, and the interest of peace, are sufficiently great to warrant the long-overdue showdown with Israeli hard-liners and automatic supporters in Congress.

The fact that it may be too late should not deter the US from tough action. Nor should the warnings of a backlash in Israel, a closing of ranks and hardening of positions.

The United States must ask itself how it can use its good office for good purposes. The alternative, continued underwriting of Israel's expansion, will do no one, Americans, Arabs or Jews, any good. American determination can hopefully mean a difference.

If President Reagan and his administration, the one US administration with the strongest Zionist credentials, does decide that now all-important to confront Israel, will do so knowing that it has the support of a substantial number of US Israelis and Diaspora Jews. It may be the case that he will be emboldened to act decisively by the intervention of Diaspora Jews calling on the Israeli government for different policies.

A very telling thing occurred at the recent World Zionist Congress meeting in Jerusalem in mid-December. While there was an official vote and record, the majority of the 750 delegates refused to support the Begin government's policy of continued settlement in the West Bank. The leadership of the WZO, supposedly the organization which embodies the goals and values of Zionism, blocked any final resolution of this kind, and in the end, the Chairman Leif Duzijn, "stole" the vote, as one observer put it.

Naturally, of course, one must understand the context within which the settlements issue was raised. The WZO is very politicized, and the political and power machinations have a very palpable impact on substantive issues. After all, the organization is basically a large spoils system, with over a \$50 million budget to allocate. The resolution on settlements must be viewed as one in a series of major tremors in a very troubled Zionist movement.

Of course, there are those official Jewish organizations which continue to argue that the US-Israeli relationship is "resilient," and try to mask the real tension. But the fact remains that many Jews are opposed to the present course of Israeli policy, and fear that government is leading them down a road fraught with present and future danger. For Menachem Begin, perpetuation of the conflict may be an acceptable consequence of fulfilling the Zionist "mission" as he sees it (ie. full control over western Palestine). But that is not acceptable to a growing number of people. Perhaps it is they who can help break the US government out of the strait-jacket of its relationship with Israel.



The fall of Shurim

Egypt's problems mount as intellectuals look to the outside

By Frank Viviano
Pacific News Service

CAIRO -- As the night train to Aswan rumbles past darkened fields and villages along the Nile, conductor Ahmed Mansour dreams of attending the University of California at Davis. Mansour holds an Egyptian bachelor's degree in agricultural science, though railroad work now supports him. He has heard that the Davis campus teaches the latest in farming techniques -- lessons of critical value to this hungry nation of 45 million.

But if a twist of fate did take Ahmed Mansour to California, chances are he would not return to the Nile Valley. "I'd probably go to Yemen," he says, "because the Saudis are funding many agricultural experiments there. In Egypt I'm sure I would have an opportunity to use what I have learned."

Some 2,000 miles north, Atef Tarafa has already chosen emigration over frustrating underemployment at home. After years of study towards a prestigious doctorate in city planning from the University of Paris, he found that his hard-won skills would earn no more than a clerical post in Cairo. "It was better to stay in France, where I can at least make a decent living," says Tarafa, who now arranges Middle East tours for a travel agency.

The problems of these Egyptians illustrate one consequence of the emigration wave which has swept through this part of the world in the past 15 years: a disastrous loss of educated and skilled people. Egypt is in some ways an exception among North African countries because it has not also experienced a vast movement of unskilled workers to European factories, as have Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

But it is by far the region's major victim of the brain drain at a time when the need for imaginative solutions to Egyptian problems has never been greater.

The price is painfully evident in the decaying, claustrophobic metropolis of Cairo. With an estimated population of 13 million now expanding to accommodate some 2,000 newcomers every day, Africa's largest city has spread over miles of desert to the once-isolated great pyramids at Giza. In the depths of this urban sprawl, Egyptians somehow get by with a stoicism and good nature that contrast sharply with the scenes around them.

Coptic Cairo, the ancient heart of the city, has crumbled into a mountain of smoking refuse inhabited by resourceful garbage-pickers. To its immediate north in El Fustat, the intellectual capital of the Islamic world, the same fate seems dangerously imminent. Entire buildings regularly collapse because of faulty maintenance or badly designed drainage systems. One catastrophe in early December leveled a six-storey apartment structure, killing 47 of its inhabitants.

The situation is only slightly better around Tahrir Square, the administrative nerve center of the Egyptian government. For three hours or more daily, thousands of civil servants are frozen in a paralyzing traffic snarl inching in and out of the area, reducing bureaucratic

productivity nearly to zero.

Similar monumental challenges face the Egyptian countryside. While the High Dam at Aswan has made the Nile's flow more predictable, it has also ended the annual deposits of fertile silt in the Nile Delta. A substantial chunk of Egypt's scarce foreign reserves must now be spent on chemical fertilizers. Food costs have consequently skyrocketed and evidence of widespread malnutrition is growing. "There is no question that what Egypt needs most are new men with new ideas," says Osama Raschid, a medical student now studying in Paris.

Yet the terrible irony is that Egypt has become one of the world's great exporters of educated professionals, sending scores of its brightest doctors, engineers, agronomists and teachers to the Arabian Gulf nations, Europe and North America.

This irony is far from lost on young people like Atef Tarafa, who entered universities here and abroad full of ambition to bring their country into the 20th century, or at least to confront its most pressing crises. "From the standpoint of planning, Cairo doesn't have to be a disaster," maintains Tarafa. "Right now, for example, a single train station handles all traffic into the city. If a second one was built on the opposite end of Cairo, a lot of the congestion would evaporate."

Cairo has not spread with the benefit of planners' charts and dreams, however. Like so many other Third World cities, it has doubled and redoubled in little more than a decade, outgrowing a sluggish bureaucracy and its dated visions in the process. To enter that bureaucracy, according to Tarafa, is to encounter "a thousand obstacles based on resentment and jealousy. It isn't possible to get things done, even relatively simple things like planning a second railway station."

For Ahmed Mansour, whose ambitions have not so fully soured, the administration of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak still holds promise: "He is a man with experience in economics and administration, and not just a politician. Under him, who knows? Maybe something will be done about the Delta after all."

What Ahmed Mansour and Atef Tarafa want for their country sounds much like a government of technocrats, a kind of government the Western world has come to disparage. But Cairo and the Nile are not the Western world, and their citizens live perilously close to chaos.

Therein lies the real tragedy of Tarafa's bitterness and Mansour's talk of Yemen. Imprinted in the loss of the Third World's most valuable human assets. It is a tragedy that especially afflicts countries like Egypt, India and Pakistan, where a traditional high regard for education produces bumper crops of talented young people for export.

Most of these young people are merely competent. But some are potential visionaries, with the capacity to halt what seems a hopeless downward spiral for the world's poorer half.

middle east

UN commission condemns Israel

GENEVA -- The UN Human Rights Commission approved overwhelmingly Tuesday three vigorously worded resolutions assailing Israel for its occupation of Arab territories. The most scathing measure specifically blamed the Israeli government for the massacres in September of Palestinian refugees in two camps in Lebanon, and said Palestinians will remain exposed to such dangers without "a just and equitable solution to the problem of Palestine." The measure also rejected the Camp David peace accords as a basis for establishing Palestinian autonomy.

US to protect Palestinians

WASHINGTON--The spokesman of the American State Department Allen Romberg, confirmed that the United States is contacting the Lebanese and Israeli governments for discussing the safety of Palestinians and for achieving stability in south Lebanon. Romberg did not confirm or deny reports about attacks against Palestinians in south Lebanon.

Egyptian-Russian relations to resume

KUWAIT--A Soviet diplomatic delegation will pay a visit to Egypt within the coming few days, reported Al-Ra'i Al-Am of Kuwait from Cairo sources. The paper added that the delegation's mission is to discuss the resumption of relations between the two countries on ambassadorial level. The Kuwaiti newspaper quoted sources from the Egyptian foreign office as saying that Cairo has already chosen its ambassador to Moscow.

Mubarak, Numairy meet in Aswan

CAIRO--It was officially announced in Cairo that Presidents Mubarak and Numairy met in Aswan Monday morning. This meeting falls within the meetings of the Egyptian-Sudanese higher council for integration between the two countries.

Arab embassies in Beirut threatened

BEIRUT--Diplomatic sources in the Lebanese capital told The Jerusalem Star that some Arab embassies received telephone calls threatening to blow up the embassies last week. Lebanese security forces said that police squads rushed to embassy sites and checked all cars parked within the immediate area. The sources added that Iran stands behind the threats because the caller said he speaks for a certain party that has residence in Iran.

Embassy of the United States of America

Notice to all American citizens living in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

American citizens residing in Jordan are requested to visit the American Embassy Consular Section in order to register if they have not done so in the past. Previously registered citizens should telephone or contact the American Consulate to inform it of their continued presence in the country and any change in telephone, address or employment. The American Embassy is located in Jebel Amman between second and third circles, directly across from the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The phone number is 44371. P.O. Box 354. The Consular Section is open to the public 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday thru Thursday.



The king who lost a right arm

General's death may have been murder

Patrick Seale

LONDON (ONS)—The death of King Hassan's right-hand man General Ahmad Dlimi is beginning to look increasingly like murder.

According to the official story, Dlimi died on 25 January when his car collided with a truck, but circumstances of the crash which have since become known suggest that he was assassinated.

Witnesses quoted by the local correspondent of Le Monde said that explosions in the general's car seemed to have been caused by grenades. Police immediately sealed off the area of the accident.

Dlimi was the main prop to Hassan's throne and reputedly the army's most capable officer. There are fears that his death will usher in a period of instability both in the armed services and among the population at large: already deeply dissatisfied because of rampant unemployment, poverty and harsh price increases.

King Hassan was due to lead an Arab League mission to London next month but last week he sent his foreign minister to explain to Premier Margaret Thatcher that his trip had to be postponed "for domestic Moroccan reasons."

In the week before General Dlimi's death a score of senior officers in Rabat and Marrakech are reported to have been arrested and the head of the Royal Guard commandos, Colonel Bouarist, was questioned.

This inference is that Dlimi had uncovered a plot in the armed services, perhaps even a coup planned to take place during the king's absence in England.

Few observers of the Moroccan scene believe an army takeover would enjoy much popular support, in spite of the many grievances of the people. Whatever Morocco's current difficulties, few of the king's subjects would like their country to be a prey to military intervention, as in so many Arab countries.

Indeed one of the great merits of General Dlimi was his strong belief that the army should not get involved in politics. Its role, he held, was to guarantee the country's territorial integrity, leaving politics to the political parties. He was fond of saying that if an officer wanted to go into politics, he should resign his commission and hand in his uniform.

His second merit was that he was himself highly educated in Arabic but of Berber origin, and thus able to keep the peace and strike a balance between Arabs and Berbers in Morocco's armed services.

Since the Green March of November 1975, a mass march into the Western Sahara inspired by the king, Dlimi had been the king's principal adviser in designing the political and military strategies for securing this disputed territory. He was the architect of the present military stalemate which tilts in Morocco's favour.

In the same cause he was also active in diplomacy and, four days before his death, was in Madrid to talk to Algerian representatives about the Sahara dispute.

Dlimi's official positions at the time of his death were: chief aide-de-camp to the king; head of both external intelligence and internal security; and supreme armed forces commander in the south. Four officers have been appointed to replace him.

But he had become so indispensable in so many critical areas of policy and security that King Hassan will sorely miss him.

The general used to visit the army in the southern desert almost weekly, to talk to officers and troops, give them courage and sort out grievances. He was regarded by his men as a father. It is now likely that the king himself will have to visit the south more frequently to supply that personal touch.

Morocco is facing considerable difficulties. In a poor country the price of basic commodities is an explosive issue. Last December, without warning, the price of tea went up by 70 per cent, sugar by 65 per cent, petrol by 50 per cent and flour by 30 per cent.

In the last month or two there has been a rash of disturbances in schools and universities, inflamed by both right-wing and left-wing extremists, demonstrations by civil servants, and dissatisfaction in the armed forces because pay has not kept pace with the cost of living.

On 3 March King Hassan celebrates the twenty-second anniversary of his accession to the throne, normally an occasion for much rejoicing. This year it is likely to be tense.

Egypt's papers criticize results of Kahan report

By Philip Finnegan

Star Cairo Correspondent

Rescissions in Cairo to the Israeli inquiry commission report on the Beirut massacres has been mixed-ranging from hope that the peace process may now move forward to outright anger that the report did not go far enough.

A certain amount of disappointment in the Egyptian establishment was predictable. Egyptian officials called for the erection of an international judicial panel on the order of the Nuremberg tribunal to investigate the massacres. Instead the Israeli government chose to create an all Israeli panel.

"We would have felt more comfortable with the findings of an international tribunal," says a prominent Egyptian editor contacted by *The Jerusalem Star*. "We are concerned that an Israeli commission may have covered up some facts."

So when the findings were published the semi-official Egyptian press lashed out. The prestigious *Al-Ahram* newspaper asked: "Are those leaders the only ones to be condemned? Are the resignations of Sharon (Israeli Minister of Defence) and Saguy (head of Military Intelligence), as asked for in the report, sufficient to wash Israel's hands of the massacre?" Another editor questioned whether the resignation of Israeli officials was enough. "The penalty is nothing compared to the crime."

To Egyptian officials the crime was the logical result

of current Israeli policy. Says *Al-Ahram*: "This condemnation adds one more black page to Israeli history. It stands as another example of the misdirection of Israeli policy by extremists and megalomaniacs."

The real question now is whether the Israeli government will change its policy as a result of the report. The English-language Egyptian Gazette identifies what it describes as the "Israeli non-peace process," a process which has included the invasion of Lebanon, the Beirut massacre, and Israeli obstruction of the withdrawal talks in Lebanon. The Gazette concludes: "As for the Middle East as a whole is concerned, the Kahan report is therefore of no major significance. Unless until Israel completely changes its policy, whether Mr. Begin or anyone else, there can be nothing but Israeli non-peace progress."

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Ghali, expresses the hope that Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon's disappearance could bring a situation (in the Middle East) to some logic and reality. Ghali notes that "there are some predictions that Sharon's resignation could strengthen the Israeli side of thought that believes in talks and negotiations. It could give a new push to the peace process, coming (talks) between the Palestinian and Israeli side or withdrawal talks from Lebanon."

Concern now centres around the possibility of an Israeli election. Foreign ministry officials believe there are only ten months left before American presidential primaries make serious negotiations impossible. If Israeli elections would eliminate the possibility of a partition during that period, once again delaying peace

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• Furnished or unfurnished apartment, three bedrooms, L-shaped sitting room with luxury accessories. Centrally heated with garage. Jabal Amman, 5th Circle. Suweidieh. Tel. 21172.

• Furnished house, two bedrooms, ground floor with small garden, dining/living, two baths, modern kitchen, independent heating, telephone, complete modern furniture, beautiful view. Tel. Hotel Vicinity. Tel. 661421 or 668032.

• De luxe furnished semi villa apartment, consisting of two bedrooms, sitting room, two baths, and spacious kitchen. Centrally heated with a water well. Shmeisani, near the Yugoslav Embassy. Tel. 661658 Amman.

Viewpoint

Affair turned into a farce

By Ya'acoub Jaber

THE CONTROVERSY over the findings of the Israeli inquiry commission may continue for weeks to come, in and outside Israel, not because they are fair or objective, but because the consequences have been most disappointing.

Menachem Begin has managed to emerge unharmed by the findings, and his uncompromising government has remained intact as if the results of the inquiry were meant to achieve that end.

The commission accused Begin of "indifference" to the news of the massacre in Sabra and Shatila. A little thinking over the world leads us to the logical conclusion that "indifference" to slaughtering of the defenceless women and children means knowledge and approval of what was going on. Despite the cunning phrasing, the report implicitly but clearly indicated that Begin knew about the massacre but decided to act to stop it.

If this is not outright involvement entailing direct responsibility, what else does it mean?

The commission, for reasons apparently contemplated in advance, has chosen to put the major share of the blame on the notorious Ariel Sharon, and clear Begin of any major responsibility that could affect his position as prime minister. Yet even this happy ending did not seem to please the "impeccable" prime minister.

For after several days of debate and heated discussions, Begin agreed to the removal of Sharon from the Defence Ministry, but only to offer the post to someone with more hawkish views than Sharon. Begin's candidate was his ambassador in Washington, Moshe Arens: a man who even opposed the Camp David accords which neutralised Egypt, the most powerful Arab state.

Begin's choice of Arens is compounded by his insistence on maintaining Sharon in his cabinet as a minister without portfolio, but with specific duties that are certain to cover Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza.

The whole affair has been turned into a farce with the world indifferently watching. Only those few thousands of peace-seeking Israelis who demonstrated against the government really cared about the consequences of their leaders' behaviour. Yet even that civilised and democratic reaction brought quick retaliation by Begin and Sharon's supporters.

Two of the demonstrators were killed in a grenade attack before Begin's office on Thursday night. It was the most significant development since the release of the commission's report.

It raises a very important question: If a faulty, self-protecting report has caused all this, then what could an overall peace settlement, entailing substantial territorial concessions, do to Israel?

Those who have applauded the Kahan Commission report and viewed it evidence of justice and the spirit of democracy must admit that Israeli arrogance has not changed a bit," the Qatari daily remarks.

Another Qatari newspaper, *Al-Arab*, expresses the view that regardless of who quits the Israeli cabinet, the government of Menachem Begin continues to be a terrorist government led by a notorious old terrorist.

The paper urges the Arabs to keep in mind the fact that Israeli leaders all follow the same policy, with each of them playing a specific pre-planned part.

The English-language newspaper *Gulf Times* says the results of the inquiry have been completely disregarded after it has become certain that Sharon will stay in the cabinet.

"Those who have applauded the Kahan Commission report and viewed it evidence of justice and the spirit of democracy must admit that Israeli arrogance has not changed a bit," the Qatari daily remarks.

It goes on to say that the presence of Sharon as a minister without portfolio will enable him to continue his venomous activities and to have a free hand in carrying out other massacres.

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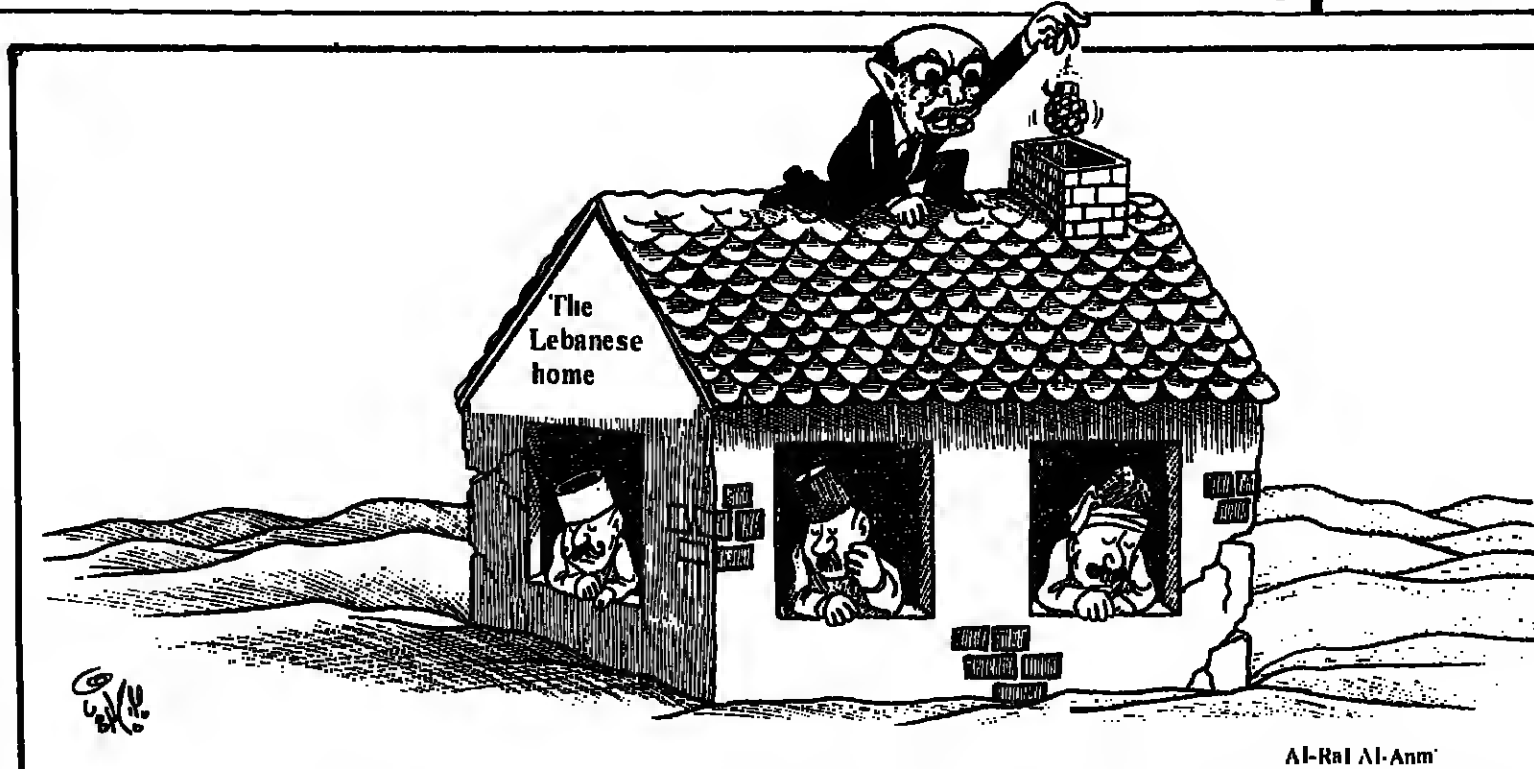
"This farce should remind the Arabs that unity of purpose, which found true expression at their summit in Fez, is the only basis for confronting the Zionist greed," *Gulf Times* concludes.

An English-language Kuwaiti newspaper, *Kuwait Times*, calls for organizing an international movement to punish Israel for its crimes against humanity and its violation of world laws and conventions, adding that no state in the history of mankind has committed as many crimes as Israel.

In Bahrain, Akhbar *Al-Khaleej* newspaper writes that the basic aim of the inquiry commission was not to unveil the truth, but was rather an attempt to give Israel's deceptive image of democracy and put all the blame on the Palestinians alone.

A Kuwaiti newspaper, *Al-Qabas*, describes the commission's report as sheer judicio-political hypocrisy, as it condemned Ariel Sharon in a dramatic manner with a view to covering up the real criminal, who stands behind all this terrorism: namely, Menachem Begin.

"If there were real democracy in Israel, Sharon and his colleagues in the cabinet should be tried publicly on charges of perpetrating massacres and mass killing—before an international court similar to the one which tried Nazi leaders at Nuremberg," the paper asserts.



Al-Rai Al-Aam



THE REPORT of the Israeli inquiry commission on the massacre in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, and the developments which followed the release of the report are a major subject in this week's newspaper editorials.

Most newspapers agree that the results of the inquiry have been aimed at improving Israel's international image, which was severely tarnished following the massacre. They also disagree with the view that the resignation of Defence Minister Sharon can bring about a change in Israeli policies.

The Cairo newspaper *Al-Gum*, Hourly writes that the resignation of this minister or that will not solve the problem because what is really needed is a drastic change of Israeli policies towards the issue of peace.

Al-Ahram newspaper suggests that all the Israeli ministers should have been condemned, because the whole cabinet of Menachem Begin was involved in planning the massacre.

"The inquiry report, however, adds another black page to the Israeli record. At the same time, it is evidence of the serious consequences of extremism," writes *Al-Ahram*.

The Qatari daily *Al-Raya* says the resignation of Sharon is the cheapest price that Israel could pay in its attempt to beautify its ugly face, which has been uncovered in Sabra and Shatila, and before that in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories.

"The conclusions of the inquiry and the resignation of Sharon do not call for any optimism, because Israel remains intact in the face of Arab disintegration and weakness," *Al-Raya* concludes.

Another Qatari newspaper, *Al-Arab*, expresses the view that regardless of who quits the Israeli cabinet, the government of Menachem Begin continues to be a terrorist government led by a notorious old terrorist.

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On the meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in Algiers, the Qatari newspaper *Al-Raya* calls on Palestinian leaders to abide by democracy in their decision-making, adding that all Arabs are expecting a realistic decision capable of coping with the present critical stage.

The paper adds that a Palestinian decision based on understanding among the various PLO groups will be fully backed by Arab states.

Another Gulf newspaper, *Al-Khaleej* of Sharj, a emirate, calls on Palestinian leaders to adopt a more forceful and united position regarding political and military action and to come up with specific programs to cope with future developments.

The paper writes that a united Palestinian position will contribute to the healing of the current Arab divisions and will place the official Arab stand before a real test, especially after the Fez summit at which Arab leaders declared that they would approve the PLO option.

In conclusion, *Al-Khaleej* stresses the importance of the military option—but without abandoning diplomatic action.

Writing on the PNC meetings, *Ad-Dustour* newspaper of Amman says the council convenes amidst new complications and obstacles, thus making Palestinian action more difficult than ever before.

The paper points to the new international peace efforts which, combined with the Arab effort, could constitute a good basis for a just and durable settlement. Such a settlement, *Ad-Dustour* writes, has been earnestly sought by the Arabs since 1967. The Algiers meeting faces the hard task of finding a formula compatible with these peace efforts, and at the same time further uncovering Israel's intransigent stand and its rejection of all peace moves.

The paper goes on to say that the PNC is also required to adopt a decision that will boost the Fez summit resolutions, and it must take into account that Israel is moving with time in taking measures in the occupied territory. The aim is to make a final peace settlement impossible, and the suffering of Palestinians under occupation should also be given utmost consideration.

Writing on the same issue, the English-language daily *Jordan Times* refers to recent statements to which suggest that the PNC is expected to endorse the Arab peace plan and reject President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative. It says that these statements should be viewed as good indicators of a logical conclusion to the intense discussions that have been taking place in and outside the Palestinian camp since the PLO withdrew its forces from Beirut last summer.

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School gives martyrs' daughters sense of home



Learning the ABC's



A portrait of Chairman Arafat to which each child contributed a brushstroke

I look at you, flag of my nation
The best flag of all nations,
Green, green, the colour of love,
White, white like the heart,
Black, black, it has risen and hit the target,
Red, the colour of my blood.

THE GIRLS in the second primary class at the Beit Al-Maqdes (Jerusalem) School for Martyrs' Daughters chant heartily, expressing their love for their national flag.

"The aim of the school is to take care of the daughters of Palestinian martyrs, carrying on the role of the father or older brother in bringing up the child," Mrs. Hanan Touqan, Abdul-Hadi told The Jerusalem Star. "When the fighter goes into battle, he knows that in case of his death, there is someone to take care of his family."

The school, founded in 1968 by a Libyan philanthropist, who refused to be known except by the name of Baba Yousef, and still supported by him, is part of the Palestine Liberation Organization's social welfare department. The department is responsible, among other things, for the families of Palestinian martyrs.

It takes in the daughters and sisters of men who were killed in battle for the Palestinian cause, regardless of their nationality.

Normal curriculum

The school consists of the usual six elementary and three preparatory classes and follows the Jordanian Ministry of Education's curriculum, with the exception, like other private schools, that it teaches the English language from the first primary class.

The Ministry also supplies all the textbooks free of charge, and applies the school health programme.

Mrs. Touqan told The Star that the girls who graduate from the third preparatory class are automatically accepted in the first secondary class of government schools. They all go to the Princess Mia Secondary School in Jabal Al-Rweishdel, which is round the corner from their own school, but continue to live at Beit Al-Maqdes until they

graduate. She said their high academic standard and grades, they are the academic branch, and probably continue to study.

One girl, Ghazal, is studying at a community college and expects to enter a Beit Al-Maqdes, which she considers her home.

Looking

There are 100 girls and all but four of them are boarders. The apartments in dormitories with double doors and a kitchen, meals prepared according to a menu set for them by a doctor. The girls get all the necessities, with meat, chicken and fish at least, a week, and the chance of selecting them on the girls themselves prepare

Stacy G. Dent
Photograph Ibrahim
and El-Sharif

their own bread-bakers, while the two school cooks prepare the meals.

Mrs. Touqan said she examines the girls regularly. In case of need for hospitalization, they go to the Palestinian Army hospital in Amman, and the school sends them to the Welfare Institute of the PLO. The hospital refers them to dentists or other specialists.

The teachers do not merely take care of the academic side, but also act as mothers, counsellors and friends. A specialized welfare worker who comes every afternoon, to help the girls with any problems they have.

Girls

The Star found an interesting case in the school. Two sisters, Amel and Leila, are bedouin from Bin Al-Sabe, who were killed in the South of Lebanon in 1969, their father killed earlier on, and the two girls were living as guerrillas in a cave near Ma'an, Jordan.

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Now, Amel and Ameenah, two tall, very pretty teenagers, have been completely integrated into the life of the school. They go to literacy classes outside the school, as they had never been to school before and cannot attend the first primary class due to their age.

The girls at Beit Al-Maqdes participate in all the regular school activities—sport, handicrafts, first aid courses, and library work in the library of the Arabic and English language books. When possible exchange visits with other schools. Last Christmas students from the National Orthodox School paid them a visit and brought presents. The girls go out on educational trips and picnics and on Fridays, they visit their families and relatives, or are visited by them at the school.

Like home

A regular schedule gives the girls time for classes, study periods, sports, breaks and time to relax and watch TV or play together.

All their needs, clothes, etc. are provided by the school. Rawdah, a third preparatory student, has been in the school since primary two. "I feel it is my home. It has given me everything," she said. Her father was killed in 1971, her mother remarried and left for the United States, leaving Rawdah, an older and younger brother with an uncle in Amman. The older brother is now a regular soldier in the Jordanian army, the younger still at school, living with his uncle. Rawdah will go to the Princess Mia school next year, and hopes to become a lawyer.

The school has several girls who were brought in from Lebanon after the war. One of them is Sarah Abu Aini, whose mother is Palestinian, but whose father, killed in the war, was a Syrian Kurd, fighting with the PLO. Aini, whose father has been missing for years, mother dead, and older brother sentenced to 25 years in an Israeli prison, Saouan, whose baby brother and sister were killed at different times during the Lebanese crisis.

Other girls have tragic stories, but are now happily being taken care of by the motherly principal and teachers of the school. One teacher, Miss Salwa Abdul-Hadi has helped her students make little booklets, with flowers of Palestine decorating the covers, and a dedication inside to father or country, indicating their pride in both.

"The school develops the Palestinian national feeling in the child, instilling in her the sense of belonging to a nation, with all that this implies," concluded Mrs. Touqan.



A determined 'victory' sign during play period



Arithmetic class



Headmistress Hanan Touqan talks with pupils in the courtyard

The Jerusalem Star

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Editorial

Can Mr. Reagan deliver?

IT MAY prove to be wishful thinking for those who desire a real and just peace in the Middle East to think that the resignation of General Ariel Sharon as defence minister, inaugurates a new era in favour of peace in this tormented region.

The fact is that the partial implementation of the recommendations of the Kahan commission by the Begin government amounts to little more than a re-shuffling game, designed to appease dissent at home and public opinion abroad. Indeed, Sharon will remain actively involved in the Israeli decision-making process as a minister without portfolio, while his chosen successor, Moshe Arens, has already made it clear that the government's policies in the occupied territories will continue unabated under his command.

Thus those who have hope in the Reagan initiative, can be reassured that Israel will continue its total rejection of the plan, despite any cosmetic changes in Likud politics. Assuming that this negative stance will remain unchanged, the question is whether President Reagan will be able to force the Israelis into compliance with the principles of his initiative.

The Palestinians, the victims of 35 years of Zionist expansionism, have modified their position as much as possible without completely surrendering what is left of their land to give Mr. Reagan at least an impetus for putting his

plan into some sort of motion.

It is expected that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization will adopt a unified position on the future peace talks. This Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is assumed to be a necessary prerequisite for any peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

It is now in the hands of the US administration to seize upon this crucial opportunity and extract concessions from Israel. Mr. Reagan cannot expect the Arabs, to let further his initiative without any tangible sign that the US is willing, ready and determined to bring Israel to the negotiating table.

However, in spite of the general elation over Sharon's resignation and the Palestinian unified stance, there appears to be little room for optimism that the US will abide by the principles of the Reagan peace plan even if the Arabs do.

The continuing stalemate in the Lebanese peace talks is clear evidence that the US is still not ready to turn its rhetoric into deeds. How can the Arabs expect the US to honour its commitment to the Reagan initiative and force the Israelis to withdraw from the occupied territories which the vast majority of Zionists believe sacred and unalienable, when can't, with an American negotiator present, induce Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, a country which most Israelis believe should not be occupied by their military forces? President Reagan has a lot of answering to do.

Kamel
Abu
Jaber



Sharon's rebirth

Greetings to Jerusalem!

The attack on Lebanon, called by the Israelis "Peace for the Galilee" operation, commenced on the sixth of June, 1982, fifteen June and one day after the blitzkrieg of 1967. The 1982 pre-emptive attack was calculated, so the Israelis said, to maintain the security and safety of North Israel from Palestinian attacks originating from the south of Lebanon.

The Israeli aggression is still in progress and its aims have been radically altered.

A declared alteration is the insistence of the Israelis on the conclusion of a peace treaty with Lebanon. Nothing short of that, it seems, will induce them to withdraw their occupation forces.

Another by-product, undeclared in words, though declared in deeds, is Israel's efforts to oust the Palestinian presence both military and political, from the whole of Lebanon.

Never averse in the use of terror or terror tactics, the Israelis perpetrated the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila camps. From the moment the world became aware of the extent of the atrocities at the two camps, Mr. Begin's role in at least knowledge of what was going on, became evident. The Kahan report later accused him of showing little concern. The time it took for the report to be published, from 1982 September to 1983 February, gave Israel a breathing spell in which to arrange her next move.

After all, this was Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister of 1983 and not Mr. Begin the Irgun terrorist of Deir Yasin of 1947.

The campaign accompanying the publication of the report was a master piece of stage production. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine a better production even by Hollywood. From Sydney, Australia to Honolulu, USA, the world was treated to a Zionist propaganda campaign of unique breadth and depth.

Instead of lamenting the thousands of children, women and men slaughtered at Sabra and Shatila, the whole affair turned into a campaign to praise and extol the virtues of Israeli "democracy".

One such commentator went so far as to say that the lack of official Arab reaction to the publication of the report was due to their realization that they would never dare publish such a thing, nor indeed even think of forming such an investigation commission in their countries. Thus, it came to pass once again that the eyes were diverted from the centre of the stage to elsewhere, from the wanton murders to congratulating Israel on her so-called democracy.

The report itself, indeed the very idea of investigating the massacres, was a step in the right direction. Official terror perpetrated by a state or with her knowledge and tacit approval must be exposed and condemned. It is, however, lamentable that the report did not go far enough. There was talk of the resignation of Mr. Sharon from the cabinet and a few army and intelligence officers from their posts. In its entirety, the report was perhaps slightly embarrassing to the government of Mr. Begin and to the persons involved, but not fatal, nor indeed even damaging to their careers.

Within the context of Israeli society and its pre-occupation with security issues, the report may turn out to be of benefit to the careers of the men involved. Mr. Sharon, General Eltan and the other officers involved will surely run for office in the next Knesset elections.

After all, "some peoples' poison is other peoples' medicine" as the Arabs say, goes, and an act like the one perpetrated by these men will surely be of benefit to them in the context of Israeli concerns. Many Israeli voters will ponder how efficient they were and after all what are the lives of so many Arabs worth anyway?

Mr. Sharon, the one most involved and responsible went out of the door to come back not from the window, but from another wider door.

Mr. Begin just cannot operate without him and though he may be called a Minister Without Portfolio, he will surely play a major role in high level "security" matters and policy-making in Israel. Surely Begin works in mysterious ways!

"The writer is the natural enemy of the politician: the politician is concerned that order should reign; he is always conservative. The writer is creative, and creation is disorder." - Michel Tournier.

Yasir Arian
Amman

opinion

Israel, US should welcome a PLO role in talks

By Ronald Young and
Carol Jensen

Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization are apparently close to agreement on naming a joint delegation to negotiate with Israel. Yet Israel's likely refusal to talk with such a delegation—and Arab fears that the United States would support Israel's rejection—may prevent Jordan and the PLO from offering to come to the table. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace initiative thus risks abrupt failure just as it seems about to produce its first tangible results. If Washington is determined to keep the initiative alive, it must accept the fact that the PLO will have some role in the formation of a joint delegation.

King Hussein of Jordan and the PLO's chairman Yasser Arafat, were both encouraged by their meetings in Amman this winter. One committee they established has made substantial progress in discussions of possible confederation between Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza, while another group has been considering how a joint negotiating delegation might be organized.

Whether these talks are endorsed by the Palestine National Council the PLO's parliament in exile will largely depend on how Palestinians expect Israel and the United States to respond to the idea of a joint delegation. Yet Israeli and American officials refuse to negotiate with any delegation in which the PLO has even a limited role.

What Israel and the United States fail to recognize is that, for several reasons, it is in their interest to welcome PLO participation in the talks. First, King Hussein's role in the negotiations would be strengthened by PLO involvement (indeed, it is highly unlikely

that Jordan would enter negotiations without it). Second, Palestinian representatives backed by the PLO would come to the talks with an authority and legitimacy that would make them more reliable, if tougher, negotiating partners. Third, this arrangement would encourage greater unity among Palestinians in support of the negotiations and of an eventual settlement. Finally, voluntary PLO participation may be the only realistic hope for genuine peace between the PLO and Israel. If the PLO came to the table in good faith and eventually committed itself to any agreement that was produced, surely this would be more likely to guarantee a solid, enduring peace than would a settlement that excluded the PLO.

In the absence of any alternative Palestinian leadership—and there is no apparent alternative—the PLO is clearly the most plausible and reliable representative of the Palestinian people. Ideally, Israel and the PLO should talk directly, as apparently they have on several occasions since 1978 about exchanging prisoners taken in Lebanon. Yet Israel's bitter hatred of the PLO and their refusal to recognize its legitimate diplomatic and political goals make this highly unlikely.

Recognizing this, Mr. Arafat is apparently considering compromise by creating a delegation made up of Jordanian officials and Palestinian representatives from the West Bank and Gaza who are not officially linked with the PLO. Two deposed West Bank mayors, Mohammed Milhem and Fahd Kawasme—both have long supported the PLO, although they are not members—would be possible candidates for such a delegation. They would represent not the PLO but the Palestinian people, and—as a symbolic gesture—their seats at the table might be marked "Jordanian-Palestinian dele-

gation." At the same time, they would undoubtedly be accountable to the PLO. This compromise would bring credible and representative Palestinians to the table without challenging Israel's refusal to sit down with the PLO.

Yet Israel maintains that it will not meet even with non-PLO Palestinians if they are chosen by the organization—and the United States has supported this refusal. There are signs that Washington may be open to compromise. In November, Secretary of State George P. Shultz met with Mr. Milhem and Mr. Kawasme to discuss prospects for the Reagan initiative. But King Hussein and Mr. Arafat may need more than a vague hint to encourage them.

Much remains to be done—to conclude tangled negotiations about foreign troops in Lebanon and to freeze Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories—before talks can begin. Nor does anyone imagine that negotiations will be easy. But a joint delegation named by King Hussein and Mr. Arafat would clearly seem to offer the best hope of achieving the goals set forth in the Reagan initiative—eventual Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan.

If Jordan and the PLO are ready to talk peace, shouldn't the United States and Israel be prepared to say that they are ready too?

Ronald Young and his wife, Carol Jensen, are representatives of the American Friends Service Committee in the Middle East. They contributed this comment to The New York Times.

A trivial price

WE DO NOT agree with those who think that Sharon's resignation from the ministry of defence will facilitate negotiations on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and will level the ground before a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sharon did not make the Israeli policy but was only the executive tool. He represents a live embodiment of the philosophy of violence and fanaticism which brought the Likud government to power and which will probably remain a dominant power in Israel for years to come.

An Kahan report is expressive of the moral sensitivity of some Israelis, the greater majority in Israel has lost this sensitivity and is still fascinated with Sharon's personality and with his violent methods when dealing with the Arabs despite his dismissal from the ministry of defence.

Sharon is the legitimate son of Begin's philosophy as he is the offspring of the policy of stubbornness and violence that governs Israel today.

Sharon's ouster from the ministry of defence is a maneuver meant to play around Kahan's report as proved by his staying in the cabinet, possibly, to pursue settlement in the West Bank and Gaza.

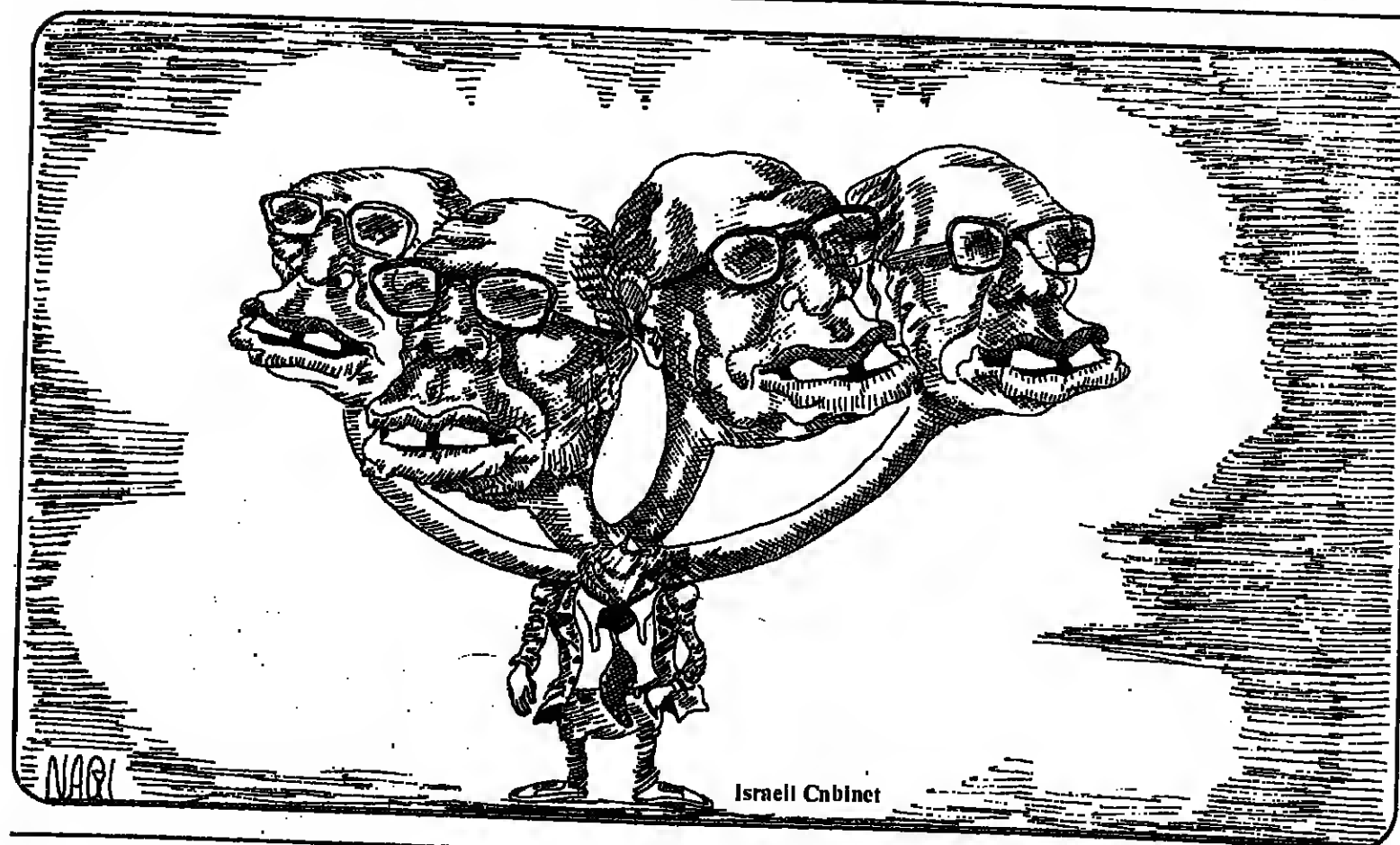
The policy adopted by Israel in the occupied territories is not likely to change because of Kahan's re-



port. The main objective of the report is to restore the picture of the "state of law and order" which Israel has lost, in the eyes of the world, as a result of the war in Lebanon and the massacres.

If we review the big gains achieved by Israel through the war in Lebanon through Sharon, we can tell how trivial was the price paid by Israel for all the gains: transferring Sharon from defence to some other ministry!

Hakim of Ad-Dustour



letters

Learning from the enemy

To the editor:

The recent storm of outrage that surged through the Arab world in the aftermath of the Kahan report is unparalleled for and duly unjustified.

We all suspected Israel's complexity in the massacres and yet Arab indignation mounted when the results of the report were declared confirming what had already been a fact. To the Arabs, and in particular the Palestinians, General Sharon has always been a criminal and will continue to be so. What everyone expected from the Arabs was something more than empty rhetoric.

If Israel was brave and shrewd enough to investigate the tragic events and then expose the

people responsible for them, why can't the Arabs do the same?

It has now become a fact that Israel only facilitated the way for the culprits to commit the massacres by allowing them to enter the camps under its control. The real murderers were not Israeli, although some individuals may have participated in the actual killings. It was the Phalangists Arabs who consider themselves nationalists Lebanese, who carried on the genocide. They are still free and remain unpunished.

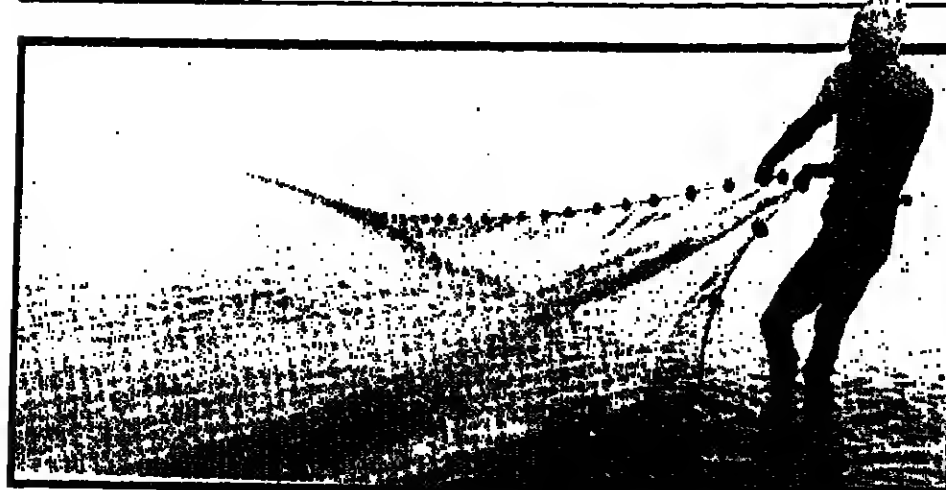
The least the Arabs could do is form an investigation committee to expose the notorious involvement of certain Arab countries and political movements in the events that preceded the

massacres and followed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

When news of the massacres was first released, thousands of Israelis demonstrated in front of the Knesset demanding that Israel's role be investigated and the accomplices be punished. For many Israelis the nightmare that Sharon and Begin brought on them is over now that most of the recommendations of the Kahan report have been accepted.

What remains is for the Arabs to step forward and punish the killers of Sabra and Shatila refugees and expose the role of certain Arab parties so that our nightmare might soon end as well.

Yasir Arian
Amman



Dawn Fisherman

'Catching' ordinary people

TAKING PICTURES is a very personal thing, yet the results can transcend the personal. This has happened with Cassandra Vivian and her pictures. You feel at once a subjective eye at work and an existence way beyond that eye.

She saw, for example, the silvery shape of the Dawn Fisherman pulling in his huge net on Lake Idku. Who else saw the man that day the way she did—and preserved the view?

Or The Gossips in the Coppermiths' Bazaar in Cairo? These people taken up by their own activ-



The Man with the Umbrella



The Gossips

ties took no notice of the lady with her camera.

Others did notice her, however. In fact, the interaction between these people and the photographer lends another dimension for we see them looking out as much as the photographer looking in. The Man with the Umbrella in Bassettin was obviously sitting peacefully with his splashy umbrella when she happened by, noticed him and clicked her shutter—but not before he had noticed her, seemingly as bemused as she. He helped her catch a reaction not just a pose.

Something a bit different happened with The Potato Harvesters at Nurgah El Arah. The five women (at least three of whom are still more girl than woman) radiate a moment of empathetic contact.

Although Cassandra Vivian set herself to photograph "Ordinary people doing ordinary tasks in ordinary places," seemingly through spontaneous intensity, she overflowed her own boundaries.

One is struck by the harmonies between the "ordinary people" and their "ordinary environments." We feel this is not the product of a moment but that gestures, movements, and glances have been refined by unbroken chains of history.

We see how Touching the Land is indeed Cassandra's Egypt—it is what her own eye caught and her camera recorded. Yet, it is not the same time an Egypt that exists "independently"—that perhaps is so much around, so abundant, so plentiful that it eludes the eyes of the "ordinary." Many seem simply to overlook this Egypt. It is Cassandra's genius that she did not.

(Weekly Gulf Times)



The Potato Harvesters

Factors against the Afghan struggle



Lack of unity is a major weakness

Report From Afghanistan by Gerard Chaliand. Translated by Tamar Jacoby. New York, Viking Press

GERARD CHALIAND has specialised in writing about liberation struggles, having written, among others, about the Palestinians, Vietnamese, Africans, and the Kurds. He frankly admits that the Afghan resistance is different and he explains why.

The lack of unity, and conflicting policy objectives, of the freedom fighters makes the Afghan resistance the weakest, in the author's opinion.

Other factors against the Afghan freedom fighters are their lack of sophisticated equipment, from communications to military hardware; the difficulty of supplying them arms and other goods; the lack of foreign help; and their own feeling, and that of outside powers, that no matter what happens, the Afghan can never defeat the invading Russians.

In asserting that Afghanistan is not Russia's

A fine satirical insight into the occupation of Palestine

By Henry Matar
Special to the Star

A STRIKINGLY unique work of modern Arabic fiction is the narrative satire by Emil Habibi, entitled "The Peculiar Annals Relating the Disappearance of Said, the Unfortunate Pessimistic Optimist."

The reasons for its uniqueness are not far to seek. First it is the direct personal experience of its author, an outstanding Palestinian activist who has maintained a political and literary campaign against the occupation ever since his native city, Haifa fell into the hands of the invaders in 1948. Secondly, the tone of the story is imbued with satirical irony. And thirdly, the story, presented in a motley disconnected pattern of incidents, gains a sort of unity and coherence from the intelligence and sharply humorous personality of the author himself.

The very pseudonym the hero of the story takes for himself immediately strikes the reader as a masterpiece of humour. This pseudonym is composed of a double juxtaposition of oxymorons; namely "Said (the Happy) set against the word 'unfortunate'; and again the 'pessimistic optimist.' This is only to reflect the severe conflict rages inside the soul of the Palestinian individual.

He is at a loss whether to yield to the deceptive mood of complacency and resignation, or to give vent to the opposite mood of rebellion-provoking despair and pessimism. Said declares, "I am really unable to tell pessimism from optimism so much so that I stand oscillating between the two extremes."

By trying to uncover the mask of irony that seems to conceal the true purport of the story, and by tracing certain remarks of the hero, the reader gains insight into the network of the Palestinian's attitude towards the occupation.

Of the catastrophic dispersal of the Palestinian as refugees all over the Arab World, Said says, "the members of my family are scattered everywhere all over the Arab World, which has not been occupied yet."

Of the expulsion of Palestinians from their houses and lands, the chief of the Israeli Intelligence Service tells his prisoner, Said, "We've pulled down your houses and driven a lot of your people beyond the river to encourage the process of building inside the prisons." "God be praised," exclaimed Said "And mind you," added the loss "by pulling down your houses we've ridden you of the rats threatening you with the plague."

Of the devastation and the homelessness the Palestinians have met at the hands of the invaders, represented by the hordes of displaced villagers flocking to Al-Jazzar Mosque in the city of Acre and awaiting their removal across

the borders an ex-teacher of Said, once on Israeli's leniency and tolerance, as trusted with the cruelty of other conquerors. Acre, saying "They would not despoil places of worship as the Crusaders had before. And why should they? It is ready to leave our places of worship as they can do whatever they like to us."

And don't tell me about their leniency, shock attacks! They are nothing but Crusaders' or the Tartars' massacre, after all, there is nothing in the world more sacred than man's blood. Thus, our country is called "The Holy Land."

And finally, concerning the deplorable quiescence of Arab workers in the plot of being employed to work on the invaders' and in their factories and building, Said penetratingly cites the example of people of the village of Friedees, who with their hands and feet the grape has the neighbouring Jewish settlement of Zif Yankov to make the wine which would be served in Arab summer resorts and the bles of the Arab Gulf and Desert pose open bridges. The villagers of Friedees thereby saved themselves the trouble of into war.

"And often," adds Said, "have I seen youths from Gaza, swarm around the contractor's car, as if they were the grapes raised upon the graves of the Gaza army is only then that I came to believe that fellow inhabitants can safely keep their own homeland."

Similarly, when passing by the sepulchres that had been deserted by their dwellers, mainly former high government officers, Said sarcastically bitters remarks, "Well they've left Babylon, where they have built new cities wherefrom they can still depart again."

Apart from the Palestinian reaction to occupation, the interested reader can follow, even through the labyrinthine mazes of the incidents the hero of the story involved in, unto the end of a chaotic traces the development of the Palestinian individual.

It is the building up of a unique character hardened by both his terrible experience of the invaders' aggression and by his amination to withstand the challenge and hedge from his native place. The Palestinian of Israel has, in brief, undergone stages of growth marked by the three books into which the story falls and which were published in short intervals between 1967 and 1974.

To be continued next



History of French song

From troubadour to mass production

By Vanessa Balronni
Special to the Star

THE AUDIENCE filters noisily into the auditorium while backstage the singer adds the final touches to his appearance and voice. We sense the expectation, the electric atmosphere but unperturbed he walks calmly on stage and takes us by surprise. Lights up and the audience rises excitedly and cheer. He responds knowingly and pulls his microphone towards him like an old friend and launches into a song.

He is surrounded by a chaotic array of lights, wires and instruments, the electric organ, the drums, the piano littered with music but he negotiates it all like his own drawing room and sings to his musicians as informally as chatting over a cup of tea. He slaps them on the back, pushes them around and teases as they play. He then turns to the audience and makes them work hard. Volleys from right to left, crutching, swivelling, he demands that they elap, laugh or sing, that they join him in the celebration of the Chanson Française.

With voices like gravel pits, nasal sprays and monotones they pull the loved word worn tune apart. They mine it, use it, reassemble it, squeeze it, push it down the microphone, jump on it and throw it at the audience who love every minute. Is it the appeal of the song or the singer that sends them raving or both? The French Cultural Centre seems to say both as its current exhibition "Histoire du Chanson" focuses not only on the popular song and its history but on the singers who are its interpreters.

A difficult exhibition to mount, the Centre astounds us again with another adventurous and ambitious cultural display.

How to relate the history of song without music, singers or lecturers? We are led through a gallery of old photographs, posters, music covers and paintings relative to the historical period.



The legendary Edith Piaf

with short explanations in French and Arabic. For those who understand English only or any other language, the exhibition can still be enjoyed as the emphasis is on the visual, not the written.

Starting with the source of the song there are pictures of the troubadours-wandering minstrels who travelled from court to court singing of heroes inspired by the crusades or by lovers but more often of the benevolence of their patrons.

Troubadours were both poets and musicians but there later came a break between poetry and song as musical arts were composed separately. The repertoire expanded to include working songs that ladies hummed at their spinning wheels, hunting songs, drinking songs, songs about soldiers and domestic absurdities (here depicted by an old picture of a husband with his foot in a bucket).

Pastoral songs about shepherds and shepherdesses prepared to die for love became all the rage after being included in courtly entertainments but popular song, popular poetry and the populace in general were considered inferior stuff till the former was elevated by Montaigne and Rabelais and the latter by the French Revolution.

In the days before the record, radio and T.V., songs proliferated in every level of society and the exhibition touches on the various types—the sad, nostalgic laments (shown by a pitiful picture of a down and out musician playing to a down and out audience of 1900), the folkloric often in regional dialects, the satirical, the historical, the narrative, the national and of course the revolutionary.

Little is said of the musical theatre of this time which had been steadily growing over the years but a great deal of attention is focused on the café concerts which sprung up at the end of the last century. Courts had been long destroyed and country life was being undermined by the industrial revolution. People migrated to the towns

bringing their songs with them and where better could they be enjoyed than in the cheap café.

The café concert was the favourite subject of the painter Toulouse-Lautrec and several of his posters invoke their atmosphere, half circus hall cabaret with painted women of light morals, acrobats, chorus singers, novelty acts and dancers. This period sees the rise of the famous cabarets, the Moulin Rouge and Folies Bergère, more renowned than the artists they produced or the songs that were sung on their stage and also the rise of the chanteuse who jostling for billings as the star attraction added more and more spice to their performances.

Moving into the twentieth century cabaret stars such as Josephine Baker shocked her conservative Parisian audiences in the twenties by her outlandish costumes (one which was only banana-mus). The song meanwhile was doing very nicely on its own. Popularised by the "star" it was then mass produced as sheet music, sold over the counter and lovingly sung at home.

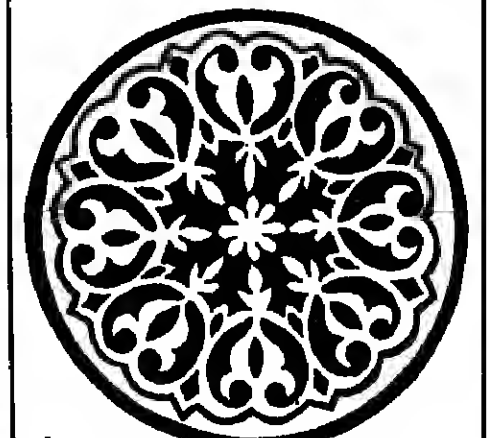
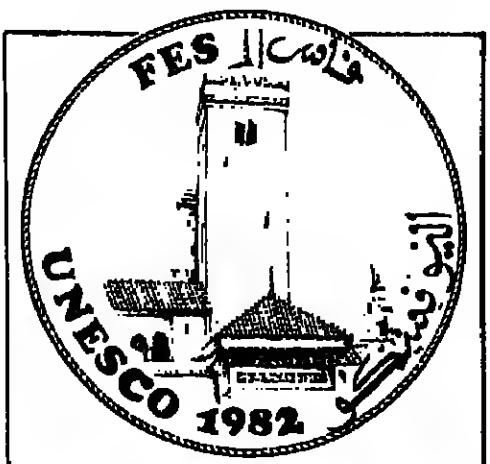
The last section of the exhibition covers famous singers of this century not famous songs. Mistinguett, Josephine Baker, Maurice Chevalier, Tino Rossi, the legendary Edith Piaf, the more modern Charles Aznavour, Serge Gainsbourg and Gilbert Beaud are all dealt with.

There are written personal histories, huge photographs, advertisements and record sleeves, and as young leave the door a few pictures of young up and coming singers. Although the penetration into the song of American jazz and blues rhythms is illustrated nothing if said of the effects of the record industry, the musical film or electronic music.

We may still see remnants of old traditions when we go to folkclubs, or the musical theatre or a concert by our favourite singer or pop group but popular songs are now short lived as we no longer crowd round our piano and sing to ourselves on dark wintry evenings and our tastes are swayed by a fast record turnover, T.V. and radio. At the push of a button you can bombard your ears twenty four hours a day and love of a song can soon become contempt.

If you are into button pushing down the stairs at certain times on certain days the exhibition has accompanying videos of the most famous singers in concert. By the time this is in print you can still catch Piaf and Montand on Saturday 19 at 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

But the video cannot capture the atmosphere of the live concert, the sweat on the singers' brow, the dimming lights as he falls into a heart-plucking love song, the humour as he clown around with musicians or the energy involved and we may be left wondering what all the clamour is about.



Unesco devotes medal to Fez

THE LATEST medal which Unesco has minted in support of its campaigns to safeguard the cultural heritage of mankind is devoted to Fez.

Established at the end of the second century of the Hijra (8th century AD) Fez soon became a centre of Islamic culture. This archetypal Arab-Berber-Andalusian civilisation survived the centuries almost intact but its old Medina is now threatened by social and economic development.

A vast effort to save Fez has been undertaken by the Moroccan Government and, through Unesco, international experts have joined in working out a strategy for preservation, rehabilitation and renewal of the whole zone.

The medal, designed by Ahmed Beyahin, who lives in Fez, shows the Qasr al-Bayt minaret, the "bourj" and the Moulay Idris mausoleum on its obverse side, with the inscription in Roman and Arabic characters: "Fez Unesco 1982". The reverse shows a typical decorative motif. The medal is struck in gold, silver and bronze at the Paris Mint. (WGT)

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All Things
Considered
Joyce Abu Jassar

Merrily we hoe along

ALTHOUGH it may be difficult to believe after so much cold weather, Spring is approaching. It is time to think about the garden. And when we consider planting, why not give some thought to a vegetable plot. It doesn't have to be a grand project but perhaps just a few rows.

Why bother? Because no matter how fresh the produce in the market is, something you have just picked from your garden is fresher. It has its full flavour and all its aroma so no matter how you use it, it will taste better. You also get full nutritional value from home-grown vegetables as much as 50 per cent of some vitamins are lost from produce within the first 24 hours after picking.

You can pick your vegetable at just the degree of ripeness you like. Most commercial vegetables are picked early while they are green so they will last during shipping.

Also you have a chance to grow your favourite kinds and enjoy them in the fullness of their glory.

A few preparations are needed. Picking the site comes first. A southern or south-western corner of the garden will be warmer than the northern or north-western corners so vegetables planted there will grow faster and mature earlier.

Soil has to be loosened. This is a guarantee of a lot of good exercise for the man of the house, or he may hire someone to do this for him. One year we hired a farmer and his horse to plow and they finished the job in an hour.

Fertilizers make things grow. Commercial preparations are sold in nurseries. If you prefer the organic type, sheep manure is sold by some shepherds. Sometimes they even sell it door-to-door. Another method of enriching the soil is to plow under the weeds that have sprouted earlier, but be sure to do this before they go to seed.

Now to get on with the planting. There are a wide variety of locally-grown seeds sold. These have the advantage that they are acclimated to Jordanian weather. Small onions, known as sets, produce green or spring onions. But imported seed packets offer varieties not grown commercially here.

And to help you along, seedlings are sold ready for planting in your garden, thus eliminating the long wait for seeds to sprout and thinning out extra plants. Among these are: tomatoes, eggplant, cauliflower, green and hot peppers, and lettuce.

Spinach, lettuce, onions, radishes, carrots, cauliflower, peas and parsley can be started this month or early March. Later in March or early April is a better time to plant cucumber, melons, okra, pumpkin, squash, watermelon, soy beans—luba—green beans, egg-plant, peppers, corn and tomatoes.

Spinach and lettuce need lots of water to grow and so do cucumbers. Onions and radishes can be planted a little at a time at 2 week intervals to furnish a continuing supply for the table. Green beans can be planted in between a row of corn so they will have ready-made poles to climb. Tomatoes are prolific and five of them will supply the average kitchen through the growing season until cold weather sets in. One squash plant in a favourable location is capable of producing a kilo of squashes every other day.

I've given you a rather long list to choose from, haven't I? Of course there is an alternative to doing all that digging and planting yourself. Convince several of your friends that they should make vegetable gardens, too, then suggest that they grow different kinds that you've picked. Then you all can exchange the excesses with each other.

Would you believe it?

SHERYL WEIDALL, 23, who recently advertised "My husband for sale - cheap" because he was never at home has already had a dozen interested offers—some from men.

Her advertisement in the local newspaper in Isanti, Minnesota, read: "My husband for sale—cheap. He comes complete with hurling and fishing equipment, a pair of jeans, two shirts, a Labrador dog and 12 kg of venison."

She told friends that her husband was never at home and if he was not hunting or fishing he was watching baseball, football or playing golf while she stayed home with their children.

But by the twelfth telephone call from would-be purchasers she rejected, and put in another advertisement. It read: "I love him and he is not for sale. Sorry dear."

Meanwhile in Wharfedale, West Virginia 53-year-old Joe Toler who was known as the snappiest dresser in town has been left at a loose end.

A thief found his way into Joe's home but, apart from 25 silver dollars, the only items missing were all the buttons off his 40 sports coats, blazers and suits.

Japanese women are forgetting how to wear their kimonos

By Juergen Kahl

IT ALL proved rather embarrassing for the young women who found that she didn't know how to get back into a kimono which she had removed earlier.

In the end, she had to prevail on the services of an urgently summoned lady

specialist, whose practised hand deftly restored order.

The episode was reported recently in Mainichi Shinbun newspaper, which then partly posed the question: how many young Japanese women would have been caught out the same way with their national costume?



Many schools have sprung up in Japan where women can learn the intricate ways of wearing a kimono

It could all, in fact, have been avoided by a publicity stunt for one of many so-called "Kimono School" Japan. Tokyo alone has 500 of these. What they run is often on a commercial basis the sort of service which in days of the imperial family was once the grandmother would always provide.

"Master the art of the kimono and you can create your own beauty," is the slogan of the women who are agitating the first of the schools in Tokyo. Naganuma. She now has a flourishing chain of 23 of these throughout the country.

Of the 1,000 young women each week turn up for instruction in her main school in the Shibuya district, Tokyo, most are would-be housewives wanting to take their own kimono to work in the traditional manner.

The basic course takes six months. Those with the necessary intelligence and skill can carry out another two-and-a-half year course to become a qualified kimono specialist.

The trickiest part of this traditional art is tying the four-metre long and 30-cm wide sash of silk—around the waist the kimono jacket.

Mrs Naganuma decorously notes this as the "difficult" part of the art, which although it is a good quality—can scarcely be taught to cost less than around \$2,000. (Gulf Weekly)

Nosebleeds

Health
by Joyce Niles

My child frequently has nosebleeds, sometimes during the night or upon waking in the morning. I am worried that his health will be affected.

NOSEBLEED MAY happen for a variety of reasons. It is distressing to both parents and child and an attempt should be made to reach the underlying cause.

Here in Jordan the summer months are characterised by high temperature and low humidity. If the child plays vigorously, running to and fro in the heat he will increase his breathing rate and the air flow over the mucous membrane in the nose. This evaporates the moisture in the lining of the nose faster than the body can replace it and the inside of the nose becomes stiff and dry. The small blood vessels, or capillaries, there sometimes burst and cause the nosebleed.

If this is the reason then the child should avoid playing in the sun or the heat of the day. Let him have more active games for the early morning or the late afternoon when things begin to cool off.

It may also be the result of some direct injury to the inside of the nose. If he or she has received a direct hit on the nose then the parent is quite likely to hear about it. But the nosebleed caused after the child has not something into his nose may be more difficult to discover, especially if the child has pushed the object deeper into the nose.

This needs medical attention to remove the object because if it is attempted by anyone else the injury may be greater.

Another cause is nose-picking. This is generally thought of a nasty habit that the child has and that it should be curbed by discipline. Yet there may be an underlying reason for the child doing this. Perhaps the inside of the nose is irritated and painful due to infection or allergy.

Nosebleed can also happen due to an infectious disease such as measles or other problems in the throat and the back of the nose that can't be seen without special instruments.

Parents can help the doctor to find the basic cause of the nosebleeds if they keep a record of when they started.

when they occur, how often, what they are doing at the time, what the child was doing prior to the event. Also if they notice any symptoms like a loss of appetite, rig at night, breathing with the mouth open, or stuffiness in the nose.

When the child does have a nosebleed, let him sit down and lean forward and then apply pressure to the bridge of the nose with the thumb and forefinger. Hold for five minutes. This is usually enough to stop it. Cold compresses to the back of the neck or the bridge of the nose may also help to stop the bleeding.

If the flow is heavy then cotton wool soaked with petroleum jelly, vaseline, and packed the nostril, leaving it in place for one hour until the doctor can be seen.

Again, it is necessary that the reason for the nosebleeds be found so that it can be treated or at least removed. The parent can help the doctor by observing the child and his symptoms carefully.

Joyce Niles is a member of the American Medical Writers Association

Zucchini (Cousa) casserole

Ingredients

- 6 slices bacon
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cups zucchini, coarsely chopped
- 6 small okra, thinly sliced (optional)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- grated cheese

Method

- Try bacon in saucepan until crisp
- Remove bacon, pour off most of the fat
- In remaining fat cook the onion until golden
- Add the zucchini, okra and tomato paste
- Cook until tender
- Add chopped bacon, transfer to casserole, cover with grated cheese and bake until cheese is melted at 350°
- Yields 4 servings

Orbis visit an all-round success

• Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'ed and Princess Majda held a farewell reception at their home last Saturday evening in honour of Project Orbis staff, who left Jordan after a two-week visit. Present were the Minister of Health Dr. Zuhair Malhas, members of the Royal Medical Services, Jordan University and the Jordan Ophthalmology Association and others concerned with eye problems in Jordan.



Prince Ra'ed

On behalf of Director of Royal Medical Services Major General Daoud Hanania, Prince Ra'ed presented the Orbis staff with the Royal Medical Services shield, in appreciation for their work in Jordan.

In return, Orbis Medical Coordinator Dr. Robert Munsh, presented certificates of appreciation to all those who participated in the work in Jordan.



Dr. Zuhair Malhas

Mu'iz Shawar received the certificate, and ALIA Chairman Ali Ghandour in absentia.

Thanking those who helped, Dr. Munsh said that the participation of ophthalmologists during this visit to Jordan was higher than anywhere else, and that he and his colleagues had not met people more delighted than those in Amman. He reiterated their appreciation of the cooperation and arrangements made at a week's notice, saying that they had run more smoothly than any other place visited.

Earlier this week the Jordan Ophthalmology Society gave honorary memberships to all doctors who had participated in this programme.

• Later in the week one of the Project Orbis doctors, Professor Ulrich Dardenne, talked to the Star about how he became involved with the project.

Professor Dardenne, who is head of the department of Microsurgery at the University of Bonn, said he had been personally involved in visiting developing to demonstrate modern surgical techniques for some time. He had been spending about half his vacation time, at his own expense, in countries like Egypt to do this.

Then, two years ago, before Orbis started, it's founder Dr. David Paton asked professor Dardenne if he would co-operate with the new venture and he agreed. Asked about his reasons for doing this, Professor Dardenne said it was not for personal merit. "Everything you do is limited by personal experience," he said.

He told a story about a very tall man and his wife in Egypt, who brought their blind baby to him and kept holding it before him until he was able to operate.

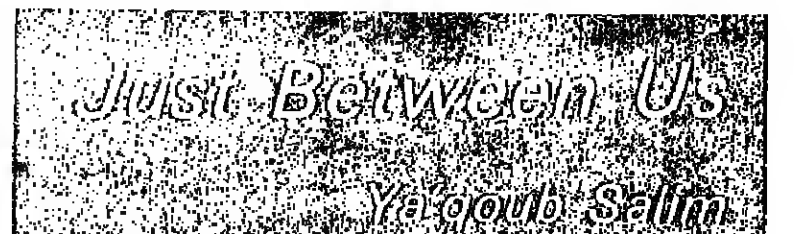
He said that when he goes back to Bonn and sees how easy things are and how simple are the cases he operates on there, he remembers this couple and their baby, and the hundreds of needy patients and complicated cases in other countries who need his help.

"I think everybody under such personal experience would do the same," he says.

The professor has also worked hard at establishing an exchange programme of doctors between Egypt and Germany, and is hoping to do the same in Jordan. The German Ambassador to Jordan, and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation are also interested in such cooperation.

But, says Professor Dardenne, the choice of doctors to be awarded scholarships would be made by Jordanian and German professors after personal interviews, because he does not want the Egyptian experience repeated, where doctors have to wait for their turn, and the "doctors' twelfth in line will have to wait his turn, but may be the best of them all."

Professor Dardenne said that the theoretical knowledge of ophthalmologists in Jordan was very high, and in



The nincompoop

NITWITS of the world, do not despair! For years you have laboured under the heavy burden of unimaginative derision. I know (having learned it the hard way) how boring it can be to be the butt of endless repetitions of insults such as "fool", "idiot" and "dimmy". All of us yearn for a better life, and such aspirations include the desire to be called by a wider array of epithets. I shall be a witness:

I was broken-hearted. Disappointment was my closest friend. I was resigned to being known as 'The Dimmy' all my days, as those around me could think of no better way to describe me. Then one day one of my fiercest tormentors gripped my hands on a thesaurus, and learned that in addition, I was a simpleton, a dupe, an oaf, a nitwit, a nincompoop and a bore, all rolled into one.

How refreshed I was. Shaking off the flood of excretion, I shouted back at him, "You mean I am not a dolt, an idiot, a jackass, an ass, a buffoon, a blockhead, a numskull, a boob, a boob or a clodpate?"

"Yes," he replied. "You're all those and more! You're a duncehead, a goose, an ignoramus, air imbecile, a moron, a clown, a tomfool, a wiseacre, a witling, a donkey, a looby, a noddie and a nodder!"

Then I got the upper hand. Taking the thesaurus, I taught him a few things. He had never known it, but he was an innocent, a loon, a drollard, a jollhead, a fathead, a halfwit, a moonclaf, a lightweight, a dolthead and a babber.

"Enough, enough!" he cried. He was ready to give in. But I still had more steam in me. "No!" I replied. "You must know: You have always been a driver, a Simple Simon, a silly, a bonehead, a nut, a simp, a dope, a natural, a sap, a dumb ox, a lunkhead, a dimwit, a chump and a crackpot!"

How satisfying. Not only had I escaped the drab daily round of monotonous namecalling directed towards me; I had found a marvellous new tool for redressing that flow.

My life changed. From then on, in my acquaintances (not without a little prodding, I must admit) found a whole new vocabulary for me. I was, it turned out, clever, bright, exceptional, astute, smart and brilliant. Not only that, but there were times when I seemed to be adjudged alert, quick-witted, keen-witted, clear-headed, quick, sharp, witty, ready, vivid, calculating, amusing, comprehending and discerning.

But the high point of my career came when an admiring (and attractive) colleague remarked to me, "Goodness!" You certainly are discriminating, knowing, intellectual, on the qui vive, sagacious, studious, contemplative, talented, apt, deep, sage, wise and shrewd!"

However, there are times when I curse myself. Life before the thesaurus was so simple and calm. I always knew that to expect from people and my role as The Dimmy required no creativity at all. Now life is more difficult.



• The members of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Hotels and Tourism Co. hosted a luncheon held in the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel to honour the appointment of Mr. Antonius Mueller-Gerbrand as director of the hotel. The Luncheon, held on Monday, was attended by heads of various departments at the hotel.

discussions, "they got me into trouble with their critical questions." The opinion of all the visiting doctors was that the quality of the local doctors was very high, and one of the main benefits of the Orbis visit here has been in assisting such highly qualified doctors to receive the money and equipment to work.

Around 10-12 Jordanian doctors have already asked him if they can go to Germany to observe his work in the implant of artificial lenses after cataracts, which is a "new style of artificial lens without complications", inserting the lens in the posterior chamber of the eye, where the natural lens was.

Prof. Dardenne concluded by saying how happy he was that this trip was successful, and that the local ophthalmologists in Jordan were very high, and in

mologists accepted the team very well. He said that personal ties formed between people during these exchanges are more important and lasting than diplomatic ones.

• Dr. Adnan Hadidi, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities, is in Bahrain this week. He is attending a meeting of the Permanent Committee on Archaeology and Museums. The committee, of which Dr. Hadidi is a member, is an offshoot of the Arab League and comprises all directors of antiquities from Arab countries.

The committee will be discussing policies of excavation and preservation, as well as the question of the financing of the Regional Centre of Conservation in Baghdad.

THE VERIFICATION STAND 21

